Cyuile and vncyuile life.

A discourse very profitable, *pleasant, and fit to bee read of* all Nobilitie and Gentlemen.

Where, in forme of a Dialoge is disputed, what order of lyfe best beseemeth a Gentleman in all ages and times: aswel for educatiō, as the course of his whole life: to make him a parson fit for the publique seruice of his prince and Countrey, and for the quiet, and comlynesse of his owne priuate estate and callinge.

Imprinted at London, by *Richard Jones, and are to bee* solde at his shop ouer agaynst Sainct Sepulchers Church. 1579.

BRITISH MUSEUM
N.H.D.
DUPLICATE
LADY BANKS.

To the right Honorable, Sir *Francis Walsingham* Knight, her *Maiesties* principall Secretary, and of her Highnesse priuy Counsell: Richarde Iones Printer, wisheth longe life, health, and increase of honour.

RIght Honourable Sir, *sometimes, a prety conceite well conuayed, contenteth the minde, no lesse then a graue & great booke. In euery written worke, two thinges bee specially required,* Inuention, *and* Phrase: *The one, is the substance or matter: the other, the forme or facion: but if they bee both good, they make the worke perfite, & win the worker commendacion. Yea, otherwhiles, a silly Subiet substantially handled, is not onely passable, but also praiseable. A litle flower well sauored is worthy smelling: A trifling stone set by a cunning craftesman, deserueth to be worne: A poore Pamphlet perfitly handled, asketh the reading. I beseeche you then,*

giue leaue, and let mee present your Honor with this litle Dialogue, written by a Gentlemã, rather for pastime, then setled studdy: and yet in my poore minde, both for wise conceyt and pleasant penninge, worthy to be read. The Author therof (as a thinge vnworthy) is neither content it should presume to your presence, nor passe among the wise. Notwithstanding, without his leaue, I make bolde to aduenture the one and the other: And doo most humbly dedicate the same to your Honor, the rather because he hath loued you long, and honoured you much. I craue small praise for my Printing of it, and hee (beinge vsed to loose his labour) desireth nothinge.

Your Honours alwayes (most humbly)
to commaund. R. Iones.

THE AVCTHOR, *to the Gentlemen Readers.*

ALbeit I well know, that euery Gentleman, wil gentlemanly iudge of all things: yet haue I thought it no reſtraynt, but happely ſome furtherance towardes their curteous conſideration, moſt humbly to pray pardon if ought in this preſent Pamphlet, bee found either in very reaſon, diſſentinge from wiſer iudgementes, or els through diuerſitie of humors, not fittinge with their fancies: For ſome I haue ſeene ſo paſsionate in opinion, as can not ſee or heare patiently any thinge that contenteth not their owne eye, or ſquareth not euen with the rule of their owne mindes. But, if it pleaſed them to conſider how hardly mennes opinions bee brought to concur, they would (I am ſure) ſpare them ſelues, and not with choller & offẽce, ſo often trouble their own thoughts. Opinon and cuſtome (as daily experience teacheth) do leade euery one, be hee neuer ſo fooliſh or barbarous, to beleeue his owne countrey condicions, and ſelf conceytes to bee beſt: and therin they that haue leaſt reaſon, do no leſſe conſtantly tary, then thoſe that vpon ſound reaſon in deede, experience, and learninge, haue firmed their iudgementes. For, do wee not finde that the ſauadge Nations, are as lothe to alter their ſoyle, as are wee that inhabite a moſt cyuill Countrey? Or do you not thinke, that many eyther through want of wil or lack of patiẽce to learn, accompt men mad, that hold them ſelues at continuall ſtudy? And contrarywiſe, would any ciuill man bee pleaſed, to abandon his beeinge, to abide amonge the ſauadge? or that would leaue the ſtudy of good letters, to take pleſure in thoſe

toyes, which ignorant men delight in? ſurely no: and no maruaile, ſithe the wiſeſt, yea the Philſophers them ſelues, haue euen to this day diſſented in opinion. For ſome you ſe haue ſought the contemplatiue life: others commended the actiue: and many preferred pleaſure, as that which ought moſt to bee deſired. Sith then, for ſo many reaſons you finde difference in the opinions of men: and that no counſell, wit, or wil, can perſwade them to one minde: my meaning is not, that though in this Dialogue according to mine owne fancie, I preferre the Towne habitacion, yet therby to finde fault with any, that either becauſe his reaſon ſo perſwadeth, or his own minde ſo delighteth, wil driue out his dayes in the Countrey. It ſhall therfore pleaſe me, that euery man pleaſe him ſelfe, vſinge the liberty and will of his owne minde: and though it be farre diuerſe from mine, yet I know not why his opinion ſhould trouble mee, or mine offende him: ſo longe as the direction of eyther, be ſtill in our owne powers. VVhat harme was it to *Achilles*, though *Socrates* refuſing al honors, put his whole felicity in vertue? And why ſhould *Socrates* bee offended, though aboue all thinges, *Achilles* deſired honour? VVhat maketh it matter, though *Heraclitus*, thought that nothing was cõtrary to other? Or what offence was it that *Permænides*, frantickly affirmed, all worldly things to bee but one thing? And if *Zeno* perſwaded him ſelfe that nothing mooued? All which opinions and errors, could nothinge diſturbe the patience of the true *Philoſophers*, who ſet their delight in contemplation, and loue of Th'almighty.

Tot capita, tot ſenſus, the Prouerbe ſayth: VVe ſee then, that the endes of mans delights bee diuerſe, and for the moſt parte contrary: although the ende of euery mans

life,

life, is one. The life of man may therfore be compared to Iron, which beeinge vſed, becommeth bright and ſhyning, yet at laſt worne to nothing: Or if it bee not vſed, but layde vp, doth neuertheleſſe conſume with ruſtines. Euen ſo, mans age well imployed, weareth with ſome gloſſe or brightneſſe of Fame: or if it bee without action, and obſcurely paſſed, yet doth it not continue euer: for death (certayne) is the end both of the one and the other. God graunt that euery man may lyue in the true feare of the Lorde, and the due obedience of his Prince, ſo ſhall hee eyther in Courte, Towne, or Countrey, moſt happely end his daies.

FINIS.

The Argument and occasion of this Dialogue.

IT happened (as ofte it doth) that diuerse Gentlemen beinge conuited to dyne togeathers: Among many other thinges, they chaunced to fall in spæche of the Countrey and Courtly lyues, reasoninge whyther it were better for the Gentlemen of Englande to make most abode in their Countrey houses, (as our English manner is,) or ells ordinarily to inhabite the Cities and chefe Townes, as in some forraine Nations is the custome. These Gentlemen as they were diuerslye disposed and vsed, so were their opinions of this matter likewise differinge: some commending the Countrey dwelling, others preferring the Cittie habitation. This matter a while spoken of by euery one, was at length by assente of the whole company disputed by two Gentlemen, th'one (for this time) I will call Vincent, th'other Vallentine, both men of more then cõmon capacity, & (haply) sumwhat learned. Vincent had bene brought vp in the Countrey: Vallentine his education and life was in Courts and Cities. Either of them with the best reasons they could, maintayned their opinions, as hereafter in this discourse you shal plainly perceaue.

I: S: Banks 1801.

Of *cyuile* and *vncyuile* life.

The Speakers,

Vincent and Valentine.

IT is a ſtrange matter to ſe, how menne in this age, and in this Realme of England, begin to alter their manners & cuſtomes, not onely in garments, & ordinary behauiour, (which be thinges of none importance:) But euen in their order of life, and conuerſation.

Vallentine.

Sir, it is true, that ſome doo, but the moſt doo not: But wherin I pray you, do you note the cheefe chaunge, and in what ſortes of men, and whether is this alteratiō, from worſe to better, or from better to worſe?

Vincent.

This chaunge (wherof I meane) is like to the reſt of worldly chaunges: that is, from the better to the worſe: For as the Prouerb ſayth: Seldome coms the better.

Vallentine.

That Prouerbe in deed is auncient, and for the moſt part true, beeing truly applied: yet becauſe I am lothe to miſtake your meaninge, I deſire to know, whether in lamentinge of alteration, you in-

clude the whole world, or some particuler countrey: or whether you will haue mee to apply it to England, and to some sortes of English men only: For with other Nations (I suppose) you haue practised litle.

Vincent.

In deede, I am a home bred bird, and therfore will not take vpon mee to discourse of forrayne customes, though I heare they bee bad enough: But as I tolde you at the first, I am sorye to see Englishmen, so apte to leaue their auncient good fashions, and fall into forrayne manners, in my poore minde, much worse, then our owne. And because our talke shall not bee ouer tedious, I will not at this time tell you of all faultes (wherof I wishe amendment:) But only of one matter, and that in one sort of men.

Vallentine.

You do very wisely to reduce matters into briefe, wherin you shall both ease your selfe, and helpe my memory, which is, (I confesse) but litle worth.

Vincent.

I know (Maister Vallentine) your memory is very good, & so is there in you many other commendable partes, though you, for modesty, will not so say. For you Trauellers are full of respects: and in all your doinges, your manner is to vse modesty.

Vallentine.

I thanke you Sir, for so sayinge, and more I thanke you if such bee in deed your opinion of mee.

Vincent.

Touching mine opinion, you shalbe assured, it is, and euer shalbe such, as I say: For I am (as

I

I holde you) a plaine man, vtterly vnacquainted with disguising, and superfluous ceremony, yea in troth, they are thinges much diuers, from mine education, and nature.

Vallentine.

I loue you a great deale the more, for in good faith, I am made of the selfe same mowlde. And though (desire to know) did carry mee in youth far from home, and that into Countries, both beyond the Seas, and Mountaynes also, yet haue not those ayres any whit, altered my loue from my naturall Countrey.

Vincent.

That so beeinge (as vpon your worde, I will now beleeue it is) I will trust the rather to your talke, and thinke that, what you doo answere to my demaundes, is in troth, that your selfe doth faithfully follow.

Vallentine.

I pray you (Maister Vincent) lay by these curtesies, and fal to the matter of your demaundes. For mee thinkes, (though you would be called a playne man) yet you vse more ceremony, then I, that haue spente some parte of my life in Countries, where those customes are most plentifull.

Vincent.

Well, then I will holde you no longer in these complaintes, (which wordes I learne of you trauellers.) But fall into the matter it selfe.

Vallentine.

Indeed Sir, that is my desire, sith it seemeth, that the subiect of your speech shalbe in comparing of our countrey customs, with those of forrain na-

rions, I hope you will hold mee blameles, (though occasion beeinge offered) I happen to finde faulte with somewhat of our owne, and commend the customes of others: which I will doo the more boldly, because you tolde mee, you loued plainenes, and therfore bee content, our talke may bee free speech, and without respect.

Vincent.

On Gods name, so let vs proceede, and (as I promised) least our talke should extend too farre, I will neither aske your opinion of all customes, nor of all sortes of men: but onely desire to be resolued of one doubt, in one thing, which toucheth mee only, and others of my degree and condition.

Vallentine.

And I pray you Sir, what may that bee?

Vincent.

You know the vse and auncient custome of this Realme of England was, that all Noble men and Gentlemen, (not called to attendance in our Princes seruice) did continually inhabite the countryes, continuing there, from age to age, and from Auncester, to auncester, a continuall house, and hospitalitie, which got them great loue amonge their Neighbours, relieued many poore wretches, and wrought also diuerse other good effectes, as hereafter I will tell you.

Vallentine.

In deede Sir, I will not denie, that the Countryaye is holsome, to gaine the loue of neighbors is very good, and to releeue the poore is an acte of much charity: But to what end speake you this, for to your well liking of these matters, euery man will assent.

Vincent.

Vincent.

I wish to God, they would: but I see, that Gentlemen begin to take another course, & fallinge from the vse of their Auncestors, doo now eyther altogeather (or very much) leane to dwell in their Country houses, inhabitinge Citties, and great Townes, which manner of liuing, I cannot allow, Though it bee (as I heare) vsed in forraine Countryes. And because you haue seene both fashions, my desire is (as a man of experience in both) you will faithfully informe mee, which of these orders of liuing you like best.

Vallentine.

Ah Sir, now at lengthy you are come to the matter, which (as I conceaue) is nothinge els, but that you woulde know whither it were best that gentlemen, should inhabite (as they did auncientlie) their owne houses in the Country, or the Citties. as in many forraine nacions the custome is.

Vincent.

In troth, that is the somme and whole effecte of my demaund, and nothinge els I will for this time desire to know your opinion of, vnlesse occasion of our speech shall so require.

Vallentine.

For my opinion herein (thought it bee of small authority) such as it is I will tell you plainely, yet (as it seemeth by your former speech) it will discent with yours. For as you commend the continuall habitation of the country, so do I vtterly disalow therof, as a custome, neither good for the common welth, neither for the gentils that do vse it: which you shall perceaue playnly, if it please you to com-

pare the commodities with the discommodities, of either: the good, with the bad, which is in either: the profit with the disprofit, which is in either: the quiet, and disquiet which is in either. And the securitie, with the hazard that is in either: all which (without priuate Passion) well waied, will easely lead you to the troth: But first, because you affect the country life, I pray you commend it particulerly, the best you may, and giue mee leaue to remember you with the discommodities therof, least you growe ouer fatte, with feedinge vpon your owne affection. When it commeth to my lot to speake of my liking, you shall without offence, bee as bold with mee.

Vincent.

With all good will (Maister Vallentine,) But I pray you marke well what I say, and forget (duringe my discourse) the perticuler loue you bare to some Italian or Spanish Lady, during your abode, on that side: Least that priuate Passion doth make your likinge to their customes so delicate, as you loath our owne country quiet, and commoditie.

Vallentine.

Nay Sir, you shall not neede to doubt any such partialitie, for it is long sithence I was there: and besides that, my bloud is now ouer colde to kindle any such fier. And therfore to our purpose.

Vincent.

Then I pray you vnderstand, that I remayne of the auncient minde of our English Gentlemen, who euer, euen to this day (or very lately) did thinke the country habitation best, as a life and education most honest, most pleasant, and most profitable.

Vallentine

Vallentine.

I like the diuision very wel: in any wise, proceed in that order.

Vincent.

I haue euer, and euer will accompt, that education, & life most honest, which is nourished in iustice, truth, and plaine dealinge, free from fraude, and dissimulation: things (as I thinke) litle vsed among vs plaine men of the Country: And first to speake of education of our Children, wee acquaint them not with any crafty company: we clad them simply to eschue pride: wee feede them grosely, to harden their bodies: and wee teache them Schoole learning, to know good from bad: other qualities in their childhood, wee commonly doo not giue them, as things which are either hurtful or superfluous: beeing growen to riper age, wee sende them to the Vniuersitie, where many become so learned, as they gaine by learning their owne liuing: or if not, yet such taste of learninge, as they are the better. Some also we bring vp in þ Innes of Court, where if they profite, wee suffer them to proceede: if not, speedely reuoke them from thence, least they acquaint themselues to much, with the licentious customes of the Cittie: as with quarreling, dycing, dauncing, deceiuing, lustinge, brauing, & indetting. To teach them these, there wanteth not in euery streate instructors ynow. Wee therfore holde it best, not to hazard our children abroade from our houses, vnlesse it bee in these places of order, and there also suffer them not to continue, vnlesse wee see their disposition to learning. To serue in Court, or follow the war, wee accompt those liues rather

lewde,

lewde, then laudable: these trades are commonly hard, and their hazard greater, then wee (beeinge borne to wealth, and worship) will put our Babes vnto: In conclusiō, our care in educatiō of children is such, as wee study cheefly to make them honest and rich, wise and wealthy, obedient and assured. Which commodities, others that haunt the Court the Cittie, the Warre, and the world: either they want, or with great hap, or hazard they haue thē. Thus much I thinke shall suffice, to enforme you of our education, I thinke you partly know it, els I would speake at more large: How do you allow therof tell mee playnely. And then I will speake of our lyues, and how honestly wee liue. For that was my promise.

Vallentine.

I allowe of your zeale to honesty in education, but if you mixe it with some other thinges, I will like it the better. That you study to bring vp your children in honesty, which is vertue, and cheefely iustice (for of that vertue men bee called good) I doo not onely allowe you, but commend you: Yet if you remember what Tully telleth you, (for sure I am you haue bin a Scholler That men are not only borne to themselues: Then will you ad some other vertues and knowledges to these, you wish to bee in your children, for besides, that all men are not apt for one thinge, yet is it commendable, nay rather necessary, that there bee persons prepared for sundry actions, not so much to serue their owne turnes, as their Prince and Countrey: Respectes of more importaunce, then the safety of any priuate Gentleman, either his person, his patrimony, or

his

his Parets. For as you said the sum of your intent, was to fraine your childre to be honest, & iust: wise, & welthy: obedient and assured. All which things I allow, as lawdable, beeing not misvnderstood. And first, touching honesty & iustice, I accompt them as one: for indeed, an honest man, is a iust man: & a iust man is honest: & that is hee that liueth iustly & honestly, in respect of loue to honesty & iustice: and not hee that is iust, either for feare, or for lacke of skil, to be worse: for vertue is a voluntary, & knowing good habite: Therfore if your Sonne be honest & iuste, either for feare of punishment, or for ignorance, because he knoweth not how to bee vniust, or false, I assent not vnto you, for then, he may be rather called a good, honest, iust foole, then an honest, or iust wise man: Touching the nert, which are to be wise and welthy, to put these two into one, it may happen to proue that they concurre, though most commonly I haue seene few wise men welthy: not because welth shunneth wisdome: but rather, because wisdome seldome seeketh after welth. Yet in your sence (I suppose) it may stand well: for you accompt no man wise, but those that bee welthy: and I doo also assent vnto you, so that you are contente to meane sufficient wealth: but to seeke after priuate goods, omittinge all publique action, and priuate contemplation, I holde not that man wise, for hee shall do as Marcus the Emperour sayd of Marchants: (Labour and liue miserably, to die rich: To the thirde of your endes, whervnto the education of your children tended, which is obedience with safety: surely, for the first there is no nation, no,

scantly the most barbarous, but will commend obedience, & therin rest you sirue: but what you mean by safety I doo not so well know, but for ought I conceiue, it is the eschuing of perill & paynes, which being your intent (as it seemeth it is) I can by no meanes assent vnto you. For if you consider well, as mens bodies be diuerse, so are their mindes & inclinations diuerse: euery one is not disposed to one thing, nor to one actiō, & therfore whē you disallow of all sorts of learning & action, but of those that be for gayne and reward, I accompt your iudgement reprouable. I will therfore cleane cōtrary to your minde, that in respect of the common wealth, & the seruice therof, (whervnto we are all bound, yea the best of vs all) that such younge Gentilmen as are not inclined to learning, should by their Parentes, bee not only suffered, and encouraged, but also to their powers enhabled, to trauaile countreyes, & haunt ỹ warres. In which trades of life although touchinge their persons, there bee greater perill then in study at home: yet sith the common weale may not wante such men, and those knowledges not gotten without perrill. I iudge it a lesse euill to hazard mens bodies in them (though many perish) then vtterly to want them, and haue our children safe at home. Euery man by nature is condemned to die, & better it is to aduenture an honest death, then to continue an vnprofitable life: To answere the rest of your speech, that in warre, in Court, and Cittie, is great store of euill company: Thereto I say there is also many good: Therfore good counsaile of freends, & honest discretion of young men, may learne them to make choise: Besides that it

is

is good, to know euill, not to vse it, but to auoyd it, and for the most part, things are indefferent, and not perfit. Besides vertue, there is nothing in perfection good, nor besides vice, nothing in perfection euill: Therfore though your childe vnderstandes know some euill, in learning good, yet is it better hee know it, with some hazard, then want his good for feare of that hazard. If no man would approch the fier, because it hath burned many a house, and many a heedlesse man, also that haue fallen into it, then would many a one freeze to death: & though the Sea, hath drowned many thousands, yet no wisdome would that sayling should bee forbidden, for (as erst I sayd) in euery thing excepting vertue, is commodity and discommodity, & when the good doth or may surpasse the bad, no man doth (or at the least ought) shun the aduenture, where good is the marke, and the end honest. Vincent.

In good faith Sir, you haue spoken more, then euer I did heretofore consider: for in deede, when I bethinke mee of your discourse, I remēber how diuersely my poore children are in nature affected, some of thē are of thē selues very bookish, others for none entisement, or compulsion can be brought to learn, so as (I suppose) you say truly, & if I durst hazard their persons, & suffer them to try their fortune abroad, they might attaine to sumwhat. And Fortune (as some Clerkes say) is very freendly to folke aduenturous. Vallentine.

Well, I am glad, my speech hath drawen you to consideration, of any good thing, before either vnthought of, or forgottē. But I am sure you take my meaning, as it is, to remēber you, & not to counsel you.

Vincent.

Sir, I thanke you, that you yeeld mee that honor, to say so: this proceedeth of your fauour. But I must confesse treth, that I neuer cast my minde so far from home. And I therby conceiue that a common wealth, hath occasion aswell to imploy men expert in warre, as others learned in lawes, though of these wee haue most vse.

Vallentine.

Yea Sir, therof assure your selfe, and in some Countryes where God hath suffered vnquietnes, there is more want of good Capitaynes, then learned Doctors: yea in such estate hath our Country beene, and may bee: for nothing is assured, but besides Warriers, Princes haue occasion to imploy many other Gentlemen of experience. For I can accompt vnto you sundry honest quallities that are very cõmendable in men, and necessary for the state.

Vincent.

Fayne would I bee enformed of all. But first let mee intreat you, to tell what are, or ought to bee, the cheefe professions of a Gentleman.

Vallentine.

That can I doo, and in few wordes.

Vincent.

So much the better, for my memory shall the more easely beare them away, therfore without more request. I pray you proceede.

Vallentine.

The cheefe and onely professions, wherby a Gentleman should receaue aduancement, or commendacion, are Armes, and Learninge. For in these

these two onely should hee exercise him selfe.

Vincent.

Surely Sir, they seeme to bee noble quallities, but I thinke hard to excel in them. But is not Husbandry, Tillage, Stalinge, Marchandize, buying and selling, with such other trades (as wee Country men vse) thinges meete for a Gentleman?

Vallentine.

In plaine speeche I tell you, that I thinke not one of them fit for a gentlemans exercise.

Vincent.

And why so? are they not commonly vsed of Gentlemen? and by them they doo receaue daily profit: the lawes doo allowe of them as thinges commendable. Also by them many poore yonger Brethren without lande (as commonly they are all) doo by the Plough, maintayne him selfe, his wife and family.

Vallentine.

A poore maintenance, and a slow thrifte, God knoweth, and full euill it becommeth the person of a Gentleman to practise any of these trades.

Vincent.

Then I pray you tell mee how many wayes a man, without land, may gayne his lyuinge Gentlemanlike.

Vallentine.

There are three wayes to doo it.

Vincent.

And which are they, I pray you informe mee?

Vallentine.

There is Arte, Industry, and Seruice.

Vincent.

Vincent.

What you meane by euery of these, I pray you let mee know, for I am borne, I thanke God to some reuenues of mine owne, and therfore haue litle studied to attaine to any thinge, saue that my fatte hath brought mee vnto.

Vallentine.

The better is your fortune, that haue by succession only, the whole fruite of all your auncestors trauaile.

Vincent.

Euen so it is in deed, I thanke God & them for it: But I pray you answere to that I aske you.

Vallentine.

Such Artes as I wish a Gentleman should learne, must be those that commonly are called Lyberall Sciences. Which and how many there bee of them, you may easely know, yea and to what purpose they serue.

Vincent.

But tell mee, are not the lawes a study very fit for a Gentleman?

Vallentine.

Yes surely, both the lawes Ciuill & Common are studies most excellent, & to speake breefely, all learnings, that tend to action in the state either Ciuill, or Martiall.

Vincent.

Now you seeme to talke of great misteries, but wee gentlemen in the Country, vnlesse our sonnes proceed in the study of the cõmon lawes, Diuinitie, or Phisicke, doo holde them learned ynough if they can write and read English, and congrue Latine.

Vallentine.

Cyuile and vnciuile life.

Vallentine.

If your ſonne wade no deeper in learning, better vntaught at all. And I am of this minde, ꝑ theſe common Schooles (wherof in England are many) that receaue all ſortes of children to bee taught, bee their Parents neuer ſo poore, and the Boyes neuer ſo vnapt, doo often times rather harme the good, becauſe there they continue ſo long, as a good miſterie or occupation might haue bin learned. For as I ſay, vnles the childe be apt for learning, and his freendes reſolute in holdinge him to it, the thinge were better vnattempted.

Vincent.

Now (Maiſter Vallentine,) you ſeeme to ſpeake ſtraungly, as though Vvrighting, Reading, and the Lattin tongue, were nothing worth.

Vallentine.

Sir, I do not ſo ſay, but to gaine a lyuing by the without further learninge, I thinke it hard. And therfore poore men that put ſo many vnapte children to the Schole, do nothing els, but offer them loſſe of time: For do you not meete many beggers that can doo all theſe, and yet you ſee their eſtate is plaine beggery?

Vincent.

That is true in deede, but yet if they bee honeſt and perſonable, they are the fitter to become Seruants to attend vpon a Noble or Worſhipful man.

Vallentine.

I am glad you haue remembred mee of ſeruingmen, for hereafter I will tel you more of my minde touching them, in the meane time, theſe quallities beeing of no neceſſity, will litle amend their entertainement, and their certenty nothing.

Vincent,

Vincent.

What you meane by euery of these, I pray you let mee know, for I am borne, I thanke God to some reuenues of mine owne, and therfore haue litle studied to attaine to any thinge, saue that my lotte hath brought mee vnto.

Vallentine.

The better is your fortune, that haue by succession only, the whole fruite of all your auncestors trauaile.

Vincent.

Euen so it is in deed, I thanke God & them for it: But I pray you answere to that I aske you.

Vallentine.

Such Artes as I wish a Gentleman should learne, must be those that commonly are called Liberall Sciences. Which and how many there bee of them, you may easely know, yea and to what purpose they serue.

Vincent.

But tell mee, are not the lawes a study very fit for a Gentleman?

Vallentine.

Yes surely, both the lawes Ciuill & Common are studies most excellent, & to speake breefely, all learnings, that tend to action in the state either Ciuill, or Martiall.

Vincent.

Now you seeme to talke of great misteries, but wee gentlemen in the Country, vnlesse our sonnes proceed in the study of the cõmon lawes, Diuinitie, or Philicke, doo holde them learned ynough if they can write and read English, and congrue Latine.

Vallentine.

Cyuile and vnciuile life.

Vallentine.

If your sonne wade no deeper in learning, better vntaught at all. And I am of this minde, þ these common Schooles (wherof in England are many) that receaue all sortes of children to bee taught, bee their Parents neuer so poore, and the Boyes neuer so vnapt, doo often times rather harme the good, because there they continue so long, as a good misterie or occupation might haue bin learned. For as I say, vules the childe be apt for learning, and his freendes resolute in holdinge him to it, the thinge were better vnattempted.

Vincent.

Now (Maister Vallentine,) you seeme to speake straungly, as though Vvrighting, Reading, and the Lattin tongue, were nothing worth.

Vallentine.

Sir, I do not so say, but to gaine a lyuing by thē without further learninge, I thinke it hard. And therfore poore men that put so many vnapte children to the Schole, do nothing els, but offer them losse of time: For do you not meete many beggers that can doo all these, and yet you see their estate is plaine beggery?

Vincent.

That is true in deede, but yet if they bee honest and personable, they are the fitter to become Seruants to attend vpon a Noble or Worshipful man.

Vallentine.

I am glad you haue remembred mee of seruingmen, for hereafter I will tel you more of my minde touching them, in the meane time, these quallities beeing of no necessity, will litle amend their entertainement, and their certenty nothing.

Vincent,

Vincent.

Well, I doo now conceaue, what learninge you thinke meete for a Gentleman, and that for poore children (vnlesse they proceede to some perfection in learning) they were better vntaught: & in troth to haue a good occupacion, I thinke is a sure trade to take vnto, then bare woighting and reading.

Vallentine.

Touching Industry, I wish that young Gentlemen (hauing no arte) should sundry wayes, yea, euery wayes honest, try their fortune.

Vincent.

And how I pray you for of my credite (if I had no reuenues of mine owne,) I could not tell, how to gaine a groat.

Vallentine.

Yet do not you see many yonger Brethren, that euen in forraine Countryes, haue aspired to great pensions: others haue happened vpon good Marriages, others for some notable, and egregious act, haue attained both profit and honour, whē others for very sloth or cowardise do liue at home, almost in beggery. Did not they better that did aduenture them selues?

Vincent.

Yes indeede, but there are few, whom fortune so wel fauoureth, and in attempting these matters many doo miscarry.

Vallentine.

No doubt of that, els their reward ought not to bee so great, for things easy, without hazard, euery blockhead doth take in hand, and yet to incourage young men, aswell in Industry, as Arte, I pray you

consider

consider how fewe of infinite numbers doo proofe learned in the Vniuersities: how few Prentices doo proue ritch Marchaunts: and how few Law Studients become Iudges: And then shall you finde the number of industrious men that thriue, is like to the rest.

Vincent.

If I were sure, my Sonne should attaine to that good hap you speake of, (and that some perhaps, haue aspired vnto) Then could I bee content, hee should hazard him selfe: but I finde the daungers many, & the hope so litle, as I hold better to keepe him at home in the state of a poore yonger brother, then see him seeke a good, so desperate.

Vallentine.

The more vnwise you, and by so sayinge you discouer the baseness of your minde, your small iudgement and lesse experience: For if you had seene the Courtes of Princes, or the warres: you shal finde in euery of them, not only many young Gentlemen of your condition: But also many your betters, the Sonnes of Knightes, Barrons, Earles, Dukes, and Princes, & many of them, as ready to hazarde their liues, for their honour & Country, as the poorest or plowdest Souldier. Do you then take scorne that your Sonne should subiect him selfe to that perrill, that these Princes doo aduenture? And if you consider how many, euen of base name & birth, through industry only, without arte, haue not only gayned them selues, goods and glory: but also thereby haue giuen honour to all their Posterity, I suppose you would not onely aduenture your yonger Sonne, but my young Maister, your heir also,

yea (rather then faile) your owne person. For had your first Auncestors beene no more industrious then you seeme, surely your name and house, had not had that worship and wealth that hath. These reasons may, me thinkes moue you to hope well of industry: But to confirme you, I will recite the names of some few, whose industry hath not only gained them selues glory, but also their Country infinite good. How say you to Colombus, and Vesputius, whose industry discouered the west part of the world: from whence the king of Spaine fetcheth yearely great Treasure. Also what do you thinke of Magelanus, that sayled about the world: yea to come nearer to your knowledge, do you not thinke that Maister Frobusher, by his industry, and late trauaile shall profit his Country, and honour himselfe? Yes surely, and a number of others, who though they haue not performed so notable matters, yet haue they wonne them selues reputatiō, and meane to liue, some more and some lesse, according to their vertue and fortune.

Vincent.

In good faith, you haue spoken very reasonably, I will no more bee so lothe to let my children goe seeke their aduenture. Now tell mee somewhat of seruice, for (as I remember) that was the third way to aduancement.

Vallentine.

In troth, I so saide, and so I meane. Seruice, I say, hath aduanced many, and daily doth it can not much differ from industry, sauing that it hath somewhat a straighter rule: but seruice of honour in the courageous, and necessity in the poore, both driue

driue them to refuse none aduenture. Those young Gentlemen therefore, y finde themselues of minde capable, & of body disposed, I wish them to haunt the warre, wherein though the paines bee greate, and the perill much, yet it entertaineth the liue, and in time procureth honour. It is the common custome of Fraunce and other Countries, that young gentlemen bee brought vp, as Pages in Court: so soone as their Pagery is past, they become Souldiers in some Band or Garrison, where after knowledge and proofe, they become Officers: from Officers, Captaines of companies, and many of them gouernours of Townes, Coronels, and Chieftaynes. Is not this a better course for younge Gentlemen then tarry at home in their Fathers or Brothers house, and kepe a Sparhawke, or a kennell of bawling Dogges, or that (which in mine opinion, is as bad:) Marry him selfe with some poore Mayden, and through charge of Children, become a very Farmer, or Ploughman, which thinges though they bee honest, and fit for some men, yet for a Gentleman vtterly vnmeete.

Vincent.

I am halfe of your minde, but this Realme hath seldome warres, and few Garrisons, where wee should resort to learne, and lesse meanes to employ or entertaine such young men, as are apt & willing to serue.

Vallentine.

It is true, & yet are there more occasions to call thē to it, then they take, & more meane to entertayne thē, then (for ought I see) men of minde to deserne them.

them, and were our nation so desirous of honour, and their owne good, as some others are, there would neuer bee lesse, then two or three hundreth young Gentlemen wandring the world abroade, & seeking aduentures: yea, I suppose, wee English Gentlemen haue so heretofore vsed y matter: how could els, Iohannes Acutus, an English man haue kept that stir in Italy that hee did: who (as Iouius, and other Cronacleirs say) led 5000. English voluntary Souldiers, and during the contentions betweene Guelphi and Gibellini, did many seruices & exploits very memorably.

Vincent.

But I pray you, are there no other wayes for Gentlemens preferment, then the exercise of war?

Vallentine.

Yes Sir, els God forbid: for I would haue no man (cheefely poore men) to accompt that the warr is their occupation: But rather how to serue at occasions, and the seruice done, quietly to retier themselues to their owne houses, Mailers, freends, or other industry, not dooing as I se many lusty yong Souldiers do, beg in the streats, when with a litle paines they could get them selues a way to liue.

Vincent.

But what shall the young Gentlemen souldiers doo, for (I thinke you know,) they haue no handy crafte to flie vnto?

Vallentine.

That I know well, neither would I with them to meddle with any Mecanycall manner of liuinge, as a thing vtterly vnfit for Gentlemen. And therfore I will say y sith the number of those souldiers is

as small, in respect of y other multitude, they might easely bee (or the greater part of them) receaued into Garrisons, and into the seruice of Noblemen, and others their good freendes, who knowinge them vertuous, would bee glad of their seruice, nay rather their company.

Vincent.

In deede the number of Gentlemen, that follow the warr, is nothinge, in respect, of the multitude: and therfore either seruice, their owne industry, freends, or fortune may, (as you say continually) holde them in hart, and ability to liue.

Vallentine.

Doubt you not therof, specially, if they be honestly and thriftely enclined: for some I haue seene so carelesse, as they neuer forecast what want may follow. But finding them selues plentifully applied, do spend as much in one yeare, as fortune & freends haue gayned in many: therfore to prouide for them I meane not.

Vincent.

Yet one question more, touchinge seruice: Are there not other seruices besides the warre, fit for a Gentleman, wherby hee may bee maintained or happely aduaunced?

Vallentine.

Else the world were harde, though the warre ought to occupy the greatest number. For (if you forget not) I told you long since, that the profession of a Gentlemā might bee either Armes or Learning: wherof, if hee hath any taste, with some wisedome and experience, he may not only serue in the house and affaires of Noblemen, and Officers, but also

the Prince himself, yet if his learning be not in perfection, or excellent in some liberall science or artes, I would wish her added thereunto Industry. In conclusion, what gentleman so euer hath in him either by nature or nourture, any vertue, singularity, or industrious knowledge, cannot want place either Martiall or Ciuill, either in his owne native Countrey, or els where. And though perhaps you see many in Court euen by mere flattery, yea some almost witlesse, win more wealth & worship, then many others, yet assure your selfe, that vertue is the true way vnto them: & whē occasion of seruice doth happen, men of value & vertue bee those that shal stand their country in steede, and honor themselues.

Vincent.

Yet tell mee I pray you, which are the meanes, to enter into the courte and other, to bee aduaunced to some good, either Martiall or Ciuill, as you terme them?

Vallentine.

And that will I bree fely tell you, let him that affecteth the warre, apply himself to serue, or follow some Noble man, or expert Captain, that is either in continuall seruice Martially, or that is likely to bee vsed at occasion, for most commonly wee loue those, and desire their good, whose studies and inclinations bee like vnto our owne. And such as fynd themselues disposed to learning, or any ciuil function, let them follow or serue those learned or wise persons, to whom the state hath geuen those authorities and trust.

Vincent.

Truly

Truly you tell mee a tale very likely, & reasonable, for at such time as the late warres was in Fraunce, I mee and at Newhauen, where as you know who was the Generall, I heard him commend the courage and conduct, not only of principall Captaynes, and Gentlemen, but even of priuate Souldiers: yea many yeares sithens that time, you shal yet vpon small occasion heare the tale at his hand, as though their doings, and the meanes names were written in the inside of his mouth.

Valentine.

Well now I perceaue you vnderstand me, and as this Noble man did, and doth honor men of his profession so doubt you not, but likewise will others. And yet to excuse your fault I remember I haue heard him tell more then once a poore Souldier, who in rescuing, or reuenging an other English man, assayled by two Almaynes with their slaugh Swordes, slew them both with his owne hand, euen in his sight, which sayth hee, and euery way must say, was a part of a courageous Souldier, and the General often speaking thereof a signe, hee honored his desert, and desired his aduauncement.

Vincent.

But I pray you, is this the manner of other great men, to honour those that serue vnder them in their profession? I aske of you, because you liue in Court, where are great personages, both in the knowledge of Arms and learning.

Valentine.

Yea sure, though I cannot so perticularly name the

the matters: yet many Gentlemen there bee so studious and painefull, as both in Ciuill & Martiall affaires are very expert, and you shall heare great men that can iudge, much commend them, yea to the Prince, by whose bounty all sortes of vertuous men are aduanced.

Vincent.

I begin to rest satisfied, touching education: and am perswaded, (and so will perswade with other Gentlemen my friends) that they shall aduenture their Sonnes, more then the olde custome was, sith either by their aduentures, they shall liue and become vertuous, or (as wee Englishmen call it) of good qualities, or else die honestly in seeking to make them selues fit for the Princes seruice, and their owne reputation.

Vallentine.

I am very glad that my poore reasons haue taken good effect, but therin I will challenge no more to my selfe, then I deserue: which is, that I haue put you in minde of that you either forgot, or els for want of leysure) neuer considered. For I acknowledge you of much more wisdome and iudgement then I am. Doth it please you to commaund mee any further seruice?

Vincent.

You will neuer leaue your Ceremonies (Maister Vallentine,) I know you are more wiser, and more expert then I am: but your naturall curtesy and modesty, doth moue you to yeeld more respect then is due vnto mee, I thanke you for it, and loth I am to seeme tedious, els I entreat you to hold your promise: that is, to heare mee tell of our countrey

commodities

commodities & the content wherin we liue there: For though I now yeelde, that the education of Gentlemen is best abroad, yet mee thinkes their continuall habitation should bee best in the Country at home.

Vallentine.

I hope you will not euer dwell in that opinion: but I pray you begin to tell of your Countrey delightes, and what is your manner of liuinge. I will with all my hart, both patiently heare you, and boldly (as you gaue leaue) tell you my minde, how I allow of your reasons.

Vincent.

I say then, that our Country habitation is more godly, more honorable, more holesome, more quiet, more pleasant, and profitable, then it can be in any Cittie or Burrough.

Vallentine.

Surely Sir, you haue spoken of great respects, why you should loue the Country dwellinge, and though I will beleue that the thing is (as you say) yet sith wee are in dispute of the matter, you must giue mee leaue to demaund either reasons or demonstracions, why indeed it is so.

Vincent.

I will proceede, as orderly as I can, and make proofe (as I hope) of all my speeche, & first because I alleadged, that our Country liues, (I speake without comparison) was more godly, then the life of the Cittie: That opinion I conceaue, because I finde there, much loue & charity, which as I take it, are two speciall markes of godlines, and seldom found in Cities, where euery man almost, spueth

to him selfe: For whereas Neighbours doo meete often without ceremony, chearing, and conuersing one with an other, without disdayne or enuie, (as wee do in the Countrey,) there I iudge is loue, and good neighbourhood: Likewise where hospitalitie is liberally kept, and many Children and Seruauntes daily fed, with all other commers: there (as I also thinke) is much charitie: in the Towne it seemeth the contrary, there is no meetinge of neighbours, without special comitation, no salutation, without much respect, & ceremony, no number of Seruaunts, but those that for necessary vses are imployable. So as in breefe, there seemeth to bee litle loue amonge equals, and lesse liberalitie to inferiours: Whereupon I inferre, that in Cities and Townes, is lesse plenty of both these properties: (I meane loue and charity,) then is with vs in the Country. How say you (M. Vallentine,) haue I spoken well or no?

Vallentine.

You speake euer exceeding well, yet I pray you with patience, heare what may be sayd to the contrary. It seemeth that ceremonies of ciuility, doth make you doubt of loue among town inhabitants, and so consequently there wanteth some parte of that good good will you finde, or imagine to be in the Country. Truely Sir, if you were aswell acquainted in any Cittie, as you are in the Shier, where you abide: you should finde the same affection among men, that there are, some more & some lesse of acquaintance and freendship amongst these men, as they bee more or lesse a kinne, allied, or of con-

conformitie, or diſconformitie in diſpoſition. For there are few men ſo vniuerſally curteous or kinde, as make accompt of all men alike (which ſo breuinge) bringeth mee to beleeue, that when good freends are diſpoſed to meete, it is better to bee eyther inuited, or occaſioned, then (as they doo in the Countrey) ſtand ouer head reſort to a gentlemans houſe, where (becauſe the Maiſter doth not make choice of his gueſtes, ſometimes very ſtraungers do there meete, yea, other whiles meare enemyes, which (as you can conceaue) muſt needes marre all the myrth. And if any of theſe gueſtes doo happen to receaue leſſe curtely, or entertainment then the other, hee falleth forthwith into offence or iealouſy againſt the Maiſter of the houſe, and holde him more then halfe his foe. Which diſpleaſure could not happen, if no man would reſorte thither vnbidden. Beſides that, (if you marke it well) when a knot of good and familier freendes bee met, to make merry, and talke, (as true freendes often doo) merrily, and liberally: if but one extraordinary man (none of this troupe) doth hap to come in) you ſhall finde all the mirth marred, and their free ſpeeche conuerted to reſpecte, yea, (ſhall I tell all) that gueſte vnlooked for, maketh one to many: for the number of lodginges. And ſo the Maiſter of the houſe, is driuen eyther to forſake his owne head, or diſcharge his vnbiden gueſt.

Vincent.

It is true that you ſay, that theſe vnacquainted gueſtes do occaſion alteration of cheare, and I my ſelfe in my poore houſe, haue diuerſe times beene

so haunted with guests, as I was driuen out of mine owne bed, to lye at some Tennants house of mine, for a night or two: Notwithstanding, I take it for no great trouble, so long as my freends found themselues content and welcome.

Vallentine.

But Sir, are you sure they were all your freendes?

Vincent.

Yea surely, I so thinke, though some of them I had neuer seene before that day.

Vallentine.

Doo you not thinke you haue as true freendes as any of these haunt feastes, that dwell far from you, or that do visite you at their occasions, or your owne comitation?

Vincent.

Yes truly, and my trouble the lesse, if wee were lesse haunted, but the Country custome is, to bid euery man welcome, and the more resort he hath, the more is the Maister of the house honored, and the more authority a Gentleman hath in the shier, the more is the resort vnto him.

Vallentine.

Verely, I so thinke, for as his true freends do seeke him for loue and honour, so are there others that do it for flattery or feare: Thus you see how easely you may bee deceaued in the loue of your Neighbours, and that haunting your house, may bee for other cause or occasion, aswell as loue.

Vincent.

Sir, it may so bee right well, but yet you can say litle againste mee, touching our liberalitie and charitie,

charity, which wee vse in the Country, keepinge our gates open for all men, and feeding many tall fellowes to attend vpon vs: also relyuing all Beggers, that aske at our gates, with money, meat, or bothe.

Vallentine.

I am loth to speak against these customes, because they are the cheefe commendations of the Countrey: and yet, sith I haue already my pardon and lycence to say what I list, against you, let mee aske what sortes of men, doo enter commonly within your gates, which (as you say) are neuer shut.

Vincent.

There doo resort vnto vs of all sortes, I meane Noble men, Gentlemen, Yeomen, our Neighbors, & many others, that either haue occasion to come thither for businesse, or passe that way for their own affaires or pleasures.

Vallentine.

These mennes presence in your houses, do rather honor you, the shew that therby you be charitable. But what bee these tall fellowes of whom you speake?

Vincent.

They bee our seruingmen, that attend vpon our Table, and follow vs in the streetes, when wee bee at London, or any other great Towne, and furnish our Halles at home.

Vallentine.

But I pray you, haue they no other quallities, wherin to serue you, or doo you vse them, for no other purpose, then attend on your Table, or follow you as shadowes.

Vincent.

Surely no, neither is it the manner to offer them any labour or drudgery, for therof they would take great scorne, beeing cumly personages, commonly the sonnes of some honest Yeomen, or Farmers of the Countrey.

Vallentine.

Then can I compare them to Monckes, and fat Friers, who vnder pretence of prayer, wanne themselues a lasie life, and liued vpon others labours: So these men, beeing called men of seruice, do nothing lesse then serue. I doo not therfore accompte you charitable in feeding of such idle folke: for that is sayd to bee spent, or geuen charitably, which is bestowed on beggers, the blinde, and lame, and such like: but not on these sturdy fellowes, & needles seruauntes.

Vincent.

Doo you so say Sir: were it for the worship of a Gentleman, hauing good lande and reuenues to keepe no more seruaunts, then (as they doo in Cities) those that for their necessary vses they must needes imploy: If wee Gentlemen should so doo, how should wee furnish our Halles: how should wee bee ready for quarrellers: or how should our Wiues bee wayted on when they ride a broade, as commonly their customes, cheefely in Summer, the faire season and hunting time:

Vallentine.

In good sooth, you haue now sayd much, but nothing to purpose, for though it hath been a custome to keepe these needlesse men, yet the custome being not good, or not profitable, it ought to be banished.

Among

Among the lubberly Monckes, and fat headed Friers, your Halles will best shewe their good proportion, when they be not ouer ful: your quarrels would be perfourmed, with your owne persons, and your wiues (beeinge well bred) should bee no common huntresse, nor gadders abroade, though I deeme not, such hath bin the vse that Ladies, and gentlewomen, (euen in their Husbandes absence) should ride a hawking, or huntinge.

Vincent.

If this custome of keeping great numbers of seruinguen had not beene good, and commendable, how happened it, that neither lawes hath forbidden it, nor experience hath not disproued it?

Vallentine.

I will tell you how (in mine opinion,) this cumbersome and vnprofitable custome came, which indeede (as I thinke) at the first was very necessary, but now cleane contrary.

Vincent.

How can a thing bee good once, and after proue euill, cheefely a custome so long vsed?

Vallentine.

Yes surely Sir, and you see many lawes or statutes made with good consent, and vpon iust occasion, which afterwardes become either so vnprofitable, or so seuere, as by like consent they be annulled, as you your self, (euen in your owne age) might haue that bed: Likewise would customes which become vnprofitable, or vnfit for ỹ cõmon welth be vsed. And touching our matter of many idle seruãts. I thinke, ỹ at such time, as this Realm was deuided into sundry principalities, a ỹ therby cõtinuall

quarrell

quarrel and discord grew among the Princes, and their sundry subiectes of necessity the Noble men, and Gentlemen were forced to keepe the greatest number of Seruauntes they were able: Not for the purposes you alleadge, but rather (as a Gard) to defend them from the fury of their enemies: either els this custome began in ꝑ time of the great ciuill warres, which continued many yeares, and was (as you know) called the Barrons warre. In these times it was not onely not folly, but rather great wisedome to haue numbers of seruauntes, and followers, though with charge, to attend vpon Gentlemen for their defence: but had they liued in continuall quiet, free from ciuill discention, I suppose, they would not haue continued those Garrisons for their vayne glory, or their senceles ambition, (as I may call it.)

Vincent.

In good earnest, you speake reasonably.

Vallentine.

Yea Sir, I can bringe one other matter to your mind, wherof you may rather gather, ꝑ this peaceable Realme, hath been in times heretofore greatly trauelled, and the Nobillity in much perill: for if you consider wel the sights, & manner of their most auncient houses, you shall finde they were all (for the most part) either Castelles or houses trenched, or Moted about: as buildinges, made rather for defence, then other respect, either of pleasure or profite. Wherfore seeinge they did choose an habitation for strength and defence, it is very like they also accompanied them selues, as strongly as they were able. And I dare warrant you that in those dayes,

dayes, though they did (as wee do) entertaine many seruaunts, yet was their consideration diuerse from ours. For as wee regarde cheefely the comlines of the person, so did they study to take them that were expert in the warre, and weapon of that age: as Pikes, Bowes, Swordes, and sheeldes. (for shot, I gesse, they vsed not:) Also they made choice (as I likewise suppose) of men that were hardy and strong, because, (hauinge litle, or no vse of Artillary or small shot,) the cheefe seruice consisted vpon force: both in defence of their Castels or houses, and also in the feelde fight.

Vincent.

All this while (I confesse) you reason very probably: but now (thankes to god, and good gouernment) wee haue no neede, as they had, and yet haue we as good reuenues or more then the noble or Gentlemen of those ages, and enioy them more quietly: why should wee not then keepe them still, to attend vpon vs for our honour & worship? And they are not altogeather so vnqualified, or idle, as you are perswaded.

Vallentine.

Then I pray you, enfourme mee further of their vertues or qualities, sith I haue plainely tolde you, for what cause the custome of Seruingmen began, and of what condition they were.

Vincent.

Among our Yeomen, you shal finde some (yea very many) wel brought vp, and expert in sundry seemly, and necessary knowledges, without which they cannot (as they doo) serue a noble man, or gentleman: and not to holde you in longer expectation

what they are. You shall know that our seruingmen, besides that they al, (or the greatest number) can well and decently weare their garments, and cheefely their huery coates, their swordes & bucklers, they can also carue very cunly at your table, as to vnlace a Conny, to raise a Capon, trompe a Crane, and so likewise handle all other dishes, and meates that are set on the board before you: some of them also can wrestle, leape well, run & daunce. There are also of those, that can shoote in longe Bowes, crosse Bowes, or handgunne: Yea there wanteth not some that are both so wise, and of so good audacitie, as they can, and doo (for lacke of better company) entertaine their Maister with table talke, bee it is pleasure to speake either of Hawkes, or houndes, fishinge, or fowling, sowing or graffinge, ditchinge or hedginge, the dearth or cheapenes of grayne, or any such matters, wherof Gentlemen commonly speake in the Country: bee it either of pleasure or profit, these good fellowes know sumwhat in all.

Vallentine.

Verely syr, you haue told mee newes, I would faine know more of these men, and of their feates, I will no more say vertues, for that smels to much of beyond seas.

Vincent.

If you knew, what honour or worship these fandoo, to a Noble man in his Countrey house, you would rather giue a good seruingman fortie pounds wages, then want his seruice some one day: I meane, either when you haue store of straungers (for so wee call our guestes,) or els

where

when you are from home: For in your absence, hee cannot onely see thinges in good order, but also entertayne them, first in the Hall, nexte in your Parlour, (or if you keepe that manner or estate) in your great Chamber, as a right good Gentleman, and some times a Lorde, may bee content (in their Maisters absence) to take all in good part: Yea to tell you all, some heires, (I speake playnely in this place) bee so simple, as their seruingmen, by their counsell, in prouidinge, foreseeinge, entertainninge and sparinge, doo maintayne their honours and worships.

Vallentine.

You speake well, for these sortes of seruauntes, I list not yet a while to reply, I pray you say on. Are these all, that his folly, & foolish ambition doth entertaine? you must not tell what I say.

Vincent.

I am sure you speake merrily: but yet I will proceede, these sortes of men bee the most number: But besides them we haue Subseruingmen, (as I may call them,) seldome in sight: As Bakers, Brewers, Chamberlaines, Wardrobers, Faulkeners, Hunters, Horsekeepers, Lackeies and (for the most parte) a naturall Foole, or Jester to make vs sporte: Also a Cooke, with a Scullion or two, Launderers, Hynes, and Hogheards, with some other silly slaues, as I know not how to name them.

Vallentine.

I thought I had knowen all pertinue, of a Noble mans, or Gent. house. But now I finde, I do not, for it seemeth a whole Army or Camp: and yet, shal

I tell you truely what I thinke) this last number though it bee least, is the more necessary sorte of seruaunts, because these serue necessity, and the other superfluity, or (I may call it) ambition: But altogeather they make a world: For my parte, I had rather haue a litle with quiet, then a great deale with such confusion: for though money and prouision bee plentifull in the Countrey, yet spending, and eating, deuoureth all: and for ought I conceaue, there is no great charity in feedinge of many of these men, who eate much, and get litle.

Vincent.

I must confesse it true, that our charge is great, and some of them are also prowde, and euill natured people, as were it not for their parents sakes (who bee our good freendes, or Tennants) wee would many times discharge our houses of them: But partly for those respects, and partly for feare, beeing out of seruice, they should fall into offence of law, wee kepe them, though to our great charge and discontent: for well you know, it were great pittie to see a tall fellow to clyme a Gibbet.

Vallentine.

Euen so it were in deed: and yet, if you hap to haue in your ground a fayre great Tree, that yeelds you no fruit: but with the bowes therof, ouer droppeth an Acre of grasse, which therby (I meane for want of sunne shine) cannot prosper: were it not better to hew downe this tree, then for the onely beauty therof, suffer it to grow to your continuall losse and hinderance?

Vincent.

Yes marry would I, but to what purpose would

you

you apply this Parrable?

Vallentine.

I can compare a cunnly vnqualified seruaunt to this Tree, for if hee can none other good, but shew forth his proper person, nor intendeth to bee more profitable, it maketh no great matter, what becommeth of him: cheefely, if hee bee vnhonest, and of euil condition. Let not that therfore combet your consticence: but a gods name prefer your profit beefore the releefe or maintenaunce of such ydle folke.

Vincent.

In very deed syr, I haue heard of learned Clerks, that God and nature hath made nothing in vaine: wherupō I iudge, that men who can no good, the fault is rather their owne, then natures: yet doth it sumwhat stay in my stomack, to discharge a lusty fellow, though his conditions bee but skantly commendable. And the reason is because hee becommeth a house well.

Vallentine.

If that bee all, that bindeth you to your charge, I will tell you how you shall better cheape furnish your house, then of these persons, of whom you haue no other vse, then to looke on them, because they are cunnly.

Vincent.

As how, I pray you? for considering the smal seruice they doo, and yet are men healthy & sound, I suppose it is no great charity to keepe them.

Vallentine.

What I meane to tell you, is this: that you were best to cause al their pictures to be drawen in their

best array, and hange them vp in your Hall, and you shall finde them as seemely furniture, as the men them selues, and yet they will put you to no cost, eyther in meate, money, or cloth.

Vincent.

You speake merrily, but yet in good faith reasonably and truely, for sith these men bee sound and stronge, and will notwithstanding bee ydle, I beleeue to keepe them, (cheefely with euill conditions) is no great charitie, and hauinge no seruice at their handes, I cannot maintaine reasonably, that they are profitable.

Vallentine.

I am very glad, that you are perswaded to see, that many thinges vsed in the Country, accompted godly, bee not euer as they seeme.

Vincent.

In deede, I yeelde vnto you, and had I considered so much a dozen yeares since, it would haue saued mee two thousande poundes, of victuals, that these good fellowes haue deuoured: But tell mee touching my next allegation, honour and worship.

Vallentine.

To that I say, that your honor or worship, resteth not either in your Countrey aboade, or keeping of many seruaunts, but rather in your owne vertue. For though wise men for curtesy, & fooles through simplicitie, doo salute you with reuerence, yet must you not thinke your selfe the more honorable, vnlesse you be in deede vertuous: I meane wise, valyaunt, iust, temperate, liberall, affable, modest, and in somme, indued with all sortes (or at the

least

least wise) with some vertuous morrall and commendable condicions, wherby you may be knowen, and at occasions vsed, in the seruice of our Prince and Country, either Martially or Ciuilly: for those bee occupations of all nobility, in which word is included all sortes of Gentlemen, aswell those that beare greatest Tytles, as they that haue lesse.

Vincent.

I finde it far otherwise then you say, for albeit a man bee (as few are) in possession of all these vertues, which (you say) doth onely make men honourable: yet if hee bee no Householder, nor keeper of seruaunts, you see that in his Countrey, neither the neighbours will loue him, nor ỹ people do him reuerence.

Vallentine.

I did not, nor will not speake agaynst householdinge, nor yet haue I inuayed agaynst keping of honest and necessary seruauntes: but against the superfluitie in either: For I confesse that hospitallity, bee it in Towne or Country, is good and godly, and also a testimony of liberality, which is a great vertue, and very commendable. But therwith bee content that I tell you, that though all good housekeepers bee the more honourable, yet euery one that can not, or doth not kepe house, or seruaunt, must therfore bee disdained or holden vile.

Vincent.

I know not what ye mean by disdain or vilety, but I am sure, be a man neuer so vertuous, vnles hee be a housekeper, no mã will in ỹ country resort vnto him,

him, or if hee walke in the Cittie without seruants attending on him, no man wil put off his cap or do him reuerence: how can then such a man bee honorable?

Vallentine.

Yes, yes sir, as much (or perhaps) a great deale more, then hee that spendes a thousand poundes a yeare in his house, or hath in the Towne twenty men to follow him. For though a vertuous man doth walke alone for lacke of abillity and ritches, yet (if hee bee knowen) hee shalbe honored: though (for want of seruaunts) hee seemeth not to euery one, that hee is honorable, because it is the vertue of minde, and not the guifts of fortune, that honor is due vnto.

Vincent.

Mee thinkes, you speake wel: and I must needs allow that a vertuous man (though hee bee poore) deserueth to bee respected, and honored: yet experience teacheth the contrary, that men of Title and wealth, are euer honored, and the poorer sorte (though full fraught with vertue) doo passe without reputation: As for example, when we Gentlemen of the Countrey doo reason, (as many times wee doo) of Noble men, Knightes, and all other degrees, comparinge some one to an other of the same callinge: we accompt him more or lesse honorable or worshipfull, as hee is more or lesse landed or wealthy.

Vallentine.

I doo not vnderstand you, I pray you tell mee, as how you make your comparison.

If

Cyuile and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

If there bee two Lordes in our Countrey, and ỳ one hath twenty hundreth pounds in reuenue, and the other but fifteene, wee say, hee that hath the more liuinge is the more honourable Lorde. And likewise, if two Knightes, the one hauinge a thousand pounde rent, the other not half so much, wee say they bee both men of worshippe, but not worshipfull alike, but the one more, the other lesse: And so from degree to degree, wee make our estimation: Also you shall see it as a rule, taken and followed amonge Gentlemen, that hee that hath lesse lyuinge, giueth place to him that hath more: though for wyth and vertue, hee much better. The same guise their good wiues vse in the Countrey: for a ritch Lawyers wife, or the wife of a lustye younge Francklin, that is lately become a Gentlewoman (Gramercé, Monsor le Harrault) will make no ceremony I warrant you to sit downe and take place before any poore Gentlewoman, bee shee neuer so vertuous, wel borne or married to a Gentleman in deede, of a good race, vnlesse hee hap to haue either authority in the Countrey, or good plenty of lyuinge.

Vallentine.

I doo now vnderstand well, how the worlde walketh, and am sorry for it, sithe that which is without the man should more honour him, then that is within him. This estimacion I must (notwithstanding that the multitude do allow it) vtterly reiecte as false and vile.

Vincent.

And why? will you oppose your self to the opinion

of so many: I dare say, if you come into the country and aske of this matter, I warrant you they will say (without exception) the wealthier man, is the more honest man: and the greater landed Gentleman, the better man of worship.

Vallentine.

Then by that reason, my Lorde Mayors Horse, is a worthier beast, then Maister Recorders Hoyle, because hee carrieth a richer burden: For that in your accompt, thinges without vs bee those that honour the person. But this folly and false iudgement in honour, commeth of ignorance, and ignorance proceedeth from your manner of life in the Country, where in deede, you neuer attende to know what doth become you, but what may enrich you, wherin you are far short of the Lawyer, and Ploughman, the one hauing a trade to ketch coyne, by his counsell and crafte, the other by his labour and lucke. You in the meane season (though in troth, attentiue enough to heare of profit:) yet mixting your thrifty desire with mirth and solace, as hawking, and hunting, can neuer attaine to that wealth, which they do, and yet you will yeeld them honour. Certainly, if you had beene traded vp in the Court or Towne, you would cast an other accompt of this matter, and bee not so barely minded as to way the worth of men, by the rente of their landes or the money in their purses.

Vincent.

I did not say, that this was my iudgement, but the opinion almost vniuersall, for if one man in the Countrey do hold your minde, I dare say you shal finde an hundreth to incounter him.

Vallentine.

Vallentine.

It may so bee (theefely in this corrupt age,) but for my parte, though twise a hundreth men did encounter my iudgement, I care not, for I am sure there is not one wise man among two hundreth.

Vincent.

Well, I am content to yeelde rather to reason then the multitude, and beleeue with you, ỹ men are more or lesse honourable, as they are more or lesse vertuous, not measuring them (as the multytude doth) as they are layed in Subsedy bookes.

Vallentine.

I thanke you syr, for doing mee such fauour, as to concurre with mee in opinion. I pray you proceede in the rest of your countrey commendacions.

Vincent.

Then must I speake of the holsomnesse of our dwellinges, which without contradiction is much more, thē your abode in Cities, Court, or townes where the ayre is commonly straught, & the concourse of people great: which two thinges must needes needs contagion and sickenes, there wanteth also commodity for exercise, which is a thinge very necessary to maintaine health, we may at our willes walke, & ronne, hauke, and hunt, our feelds beeing spacious, and our game plentifull. All which thinges you want in Court & Cittie, or with great difficulty you haue them.

Vallentine.

Euery commodity beareth about it, some discommodity: yet if I list to reason, so needles a problemę, I could say, that as Courtes and Cities, by reason of the concourse of people become oft times

vnpleasauntly aired, yet the sight is of more importance and worthier consideracion. For it may bee that a perticuler house in the country, (as commonly all olde buildinges were) bee as low, and vnholsomly placed, as any Cittie, for herof was greater aduise in sytinge it. Also therin are great prouisions to prenent corruption and sickenes: the people also beeing therin, are more neate and ciuill then they bin in the countrey: For cleanlynes is a speciall preseruatine against infection, yea, if you did, or could know the whole number of people that did inhabit London, or any other cittie, comparinge them with as many of the Countrey, and marke how many died weekly of either, you should commonly see the thing would fall out indifferent, though at some one time died more Citizens, yet at some other you should finde, as great plagues and sickenesse, among the Masse of your countrey folke. And for your exercises (which I confesse are honest and good,) I will speake of them hereafter when you hap, (as you haue promised) to praise the pleasure of your countrey dwelling: Let it then suffise, that touchinge the good or euill ayre and holesomnes, or vnholesomnes of our diuerse dwellinges, I refer you to the sighte of the places, and leaue them to your wisedome without comparinge. Wee liue here, till wee can no longer, and you till you die: some are very healthy, and some euer sickly: some haue much of the one, and some of the other. Euery man to his fortune.

Vincent.

Then for, let that bee, as bee may, for I finde in euery ayre, some liue longe, & some lesse, though few

ſetu ſo longe as they would: but nowo let vs com-
mon of our quiet.

Vallentine.

With all good will, I am content to heare you, ſay what you liſt, for it will pleaſe mee much, to knowo of your quiet life.

Vincent.

Underſtand you (good Maiſter Vallentine) that our houſes bee, (or at the leaſte) the moſt auncient of them, ſited in places remote, and far from any Cittie, Burrough, (or almoſt) Village, whereby wee want thoſe noyſome noyſes of cryinge and carriages, which neceſſarily the Citizens muſt abide. Our gates bee not euery handwhile knocked, for either they are all day open, or that our Porters bee ſtill preſent to let men in and out, wee are not much troubled with ſendinge too and fro, for our prouiſions: becauſe euery Gentleman, if hee bee a man of any reaſonable landes, and forecaſt, he hath about home, vpon his owne demeanes, all ſorts of victuall for horſe and man, and like wiſe fewel: So as in concluſion, I tell you hee needeth not to diſquiet him ſelfe, either in ſence or wit, vnleſſe it bee ſome one ambitious Gentleman amonge many, who (becauſe he would ſeeme more honorable the the reſt) wilbe richly apparrelled, and fill his Seller with Wines of ſundry ſortes, which prouiſion indeed wee haue not without ſending to London, or ſome great Cittie.

Vallentine.

I perceaue (as partly I did before) that your houſes bee far from company, which in the reſpect you haue ſpoken, are the more quiet, and yet mee

thinkes, I would not want the comforte of neighboured for the quiet you haue tolde vs, which nevertheleſſe may bee enough: And whereas you alleage that your prouiſions at haude doth acquite you of trouble, which wee haue in the town, therin I iudge you deceaue your ſelfe. For albeit corne groweth on your owne demeane, and your wood likewiſe, alſo your cattell and all countrey foode: yet dare I warrant you before ſuch time as the ſame prouiſions be fit for your vſe (I meane, your Lande manured, your corne reaped, your woods cut downe, & all thinges ready, and brought home as they muſt bee: your trouble and diſquiet will be much more then ours, that ſende twiſe a day from our houſe to the Market in the towne where wee dwell.

Vincent.

In deede I had forgotten, that wee haue much adoo in ſeed ſeaſon, to ſet forth our plowes, in harueſt to reape our corne, and towards winter to lay in our fewell: But all theſe thinges yet wee haue without money, which you haue not.

Vallentine.

Without money? But fye by your fauour, not without coſt, and other whiles wee haue them better cheape then you, though they growe on your owne ground, as I will hereafter perſwade when I ſhall anſwere you, touchinge the profite of the Countrey, which is one of your allegations.

Vincent.

Then do I longe much to heare, yet let mee tel you one touch more of our quiet, which is our authority, for a number of vs bee Iuſtices, ſome of

Quoram,

Quoram, and many of the Peace, some Shreeues some Surueyors, some Escheators, some Feodaries, and such like, others also, though in no office, yet beeinge discended of wealthy and worshipfull houses, are much respected, worshipped and feared of the people: But if the best of these remayned in Court (without office there) or in ỳ Citty or towne, the meanest Marchaunt, or syllyest Shoemaker, woulde scantly respecte vs, and none at all feare vs.

Vallentine.

Nor wee them: and yet shall I speake plainely, I had rather bee worshipped or respected of one ciuil or wise man (such as liue in Courts or townes) then of one hundreth Countrey loutes, that either doo salute you for flattery, or honour you ignorantly: And lothe would I bee, to finde you so grosse, as to thinke that among twise tenne of those plebeyall sortes, there bee two of iudgement enough to know what honour is due to one, more then to an other.

Vincent.

And why so syr? yes I warrant you that they vnderstand, what Noble man or Gentleman doo dwell neare them, and what honour is due to eyther: Neyther are they so ignorant, or vnciuil, but if they hap to meet any such well apparrelled person, in his worshipfull garmentes, or with a fayre cheyne about his necke, the countrey lowtes (as you terme them) can so much good manner, as to put off their hats, and if the Gentleman be braue in deede, they will also doo him other reuerence.

Vallentine.

Vallentine.

Not so, but I thinke verely they will often do reuerence to the Gentlemans cheyne, or his braue coate, which curtesie men of iudgement do not regard, for they would be honoured for them selues and their vertue, and though no man doth commit Idolitry to their cheynes, or garmentes they force litle: which error I haue seen not only cõmon people to commit, but (by your leaue,) many of your worshipfull inhabitantes, who by reason, you are continually abydinge in the Countrey, you know neither the persons of the Nobillity, nor yet the very Magistrates that gouerne. Wherby (when happely ye bee called before them,) you know neither what difference to make, either of their persons or dignities. The like simplicity I haue seen in your Wiues: and yet in them more excuseable, (because they may not modestly without your leaues, see so much of the world:) who when they come to Court, do neither know the gentlewomen from the Ladyes, nor scantly the Queene her self. What Gentleman or Gentlewoman would not be ashamed of such ignorance, and wisheth not rather that he had spent twise two hundreth pounds then to shew him selfe to bee such a one as I haue tolde you.

Vincent.

In very deede, (Maister Vallentine,) it is meete for euery Gentleman to know, the person of his Prince: and likewise of the Magistrates, (or at the least, of the most of them) and surely such knowledge is not gotten without comminge to Court, or places where they resort: Notwithstanding it

all

all Gentlemen should follow the Court or dwel in London, how should the countrey bee gouerned? For without Iustices of Peace and officers there, the people would be out of order, and the Princes seruice must needs bee neglected.

Vallentine.

Although I take vpon mee to remember Gentlemen, of their grosse ignorance and lacke of ciuility, yet is not my intent to traine them all their whole liues, out of their countrey, neyther would I wish them, (cheefely Officers, & ministers of the Princes in Iustice) to remaine alwaies: either in court or Cittie: But to resort thither at such age & times, as hee is either not imploied, or not needed, which if hee did (I am most assured) his seruice woulde prooue the more worthy, and him self a great deale the more ciuill: If it pleaseth you to consider that if any important seruice bee cõmitted to the Iustices of any Shier, you shall see the same (or the cheefe trust therof) allotted to men knowen to the Prince or the Councell, and not to others. And if after the sayd seruice bee performed and any report therof must bee made, if a man do come to do that office (beeing before knowen to the Prince or Magistrates, you shal finde hee shalbe heard with more respecte, and dispatched with more speede, then if any other vnknowen, or vnskilfull person had beene presented vnto them.

Vincent.

No doubt of that, but would you haue all Gentlemen thus finely brought vp, and that there should no Iustices of Peace remayne in the Countrey, mee thinkes that were exceeding strange.

Vallentine.

I did wish indeed, that all Gentlemen were well brought vp, and resorters to Court or Cittie, yet I laide not that they should euer abandon the countrey, cheefely those that are imployed there.

Vincent.

Then it seemeth that you would haue all the rest to bee Courtiers and Townes men, how should any of them then aspire to the offices of the Countrey, when there they are not abidinge.

Vallentine.

My meaning is not to entice them all to Court, or to Cittie from their naturall shier: But that such (as would not doo them selues that great good) that at the least they would some times, & cheefely in their youth, abide in their cheefe towne or cittie of their countrey, where they may conuerse with a people more ciuill, then the poore billaines, and bee notwithstanding at hand to take office (if it be layed on them:) Also if they bee in office already, they dwell there fitly enough to exercise the same. But by this you haue saide, it seemeth you are, or faine would bee an Officer in your countrey.

Vincent.

Nay not so syr, but yet if it bee layed vpon mee, I must not refuse to serue my Prince.

Vallentine.

I warrant you syr, if you bee no better acquainted in Court then you seeme, nor no better learned then I, you shall neuer bee troubled with office, vnlesse some freend of yours doo recommend you, for so obscure education as you speake, will slowly prefer you.

Vincent.

Vincent.

I confesse our preferment is slow, and yours (bee it spoken with patience) is not ouer swift. For if you marke well it is much better to smell of the law, then of the Launce.

Vallentine.

By my fay syr, you haue hit mee home, for truely I wish that those sauours did yeeld thrift alike. But how happy are you, for whom fortune hath so well prouided, as you neede neither to taste the paines of the one, nor the perrill of the other. But Basta. Let vs returne to the matter, & tell mee how ye are perswaded of my speech touching your quiet.

Vincent.

Exceedingly well: And must acknowledge that in manuringe our owne grounds, wee offer our selues much disquiet and care, not becomminge a Gentleman. Also in consideration of our strangnes to the Court, wee are made the lesse meete for gouernment, & not to know the person of our Prince is a thinge that amazeth a Gentleman much. I yeelde therfore vnto your reasons, and the rather because you will neither binde vs continually to Court, nor London: But that wee may both visit our owne countrey houses, and yee make cheefe abode in our shier townes, as places to keepe vs in that ciuilitie, is behouefull.

Vallentine.

You vnderstande mee right, and you shall by your dwellinge in those Townes, much enritche the people, that they thereby enhabled maye make their buyldinges the more beautifull and commodious, so that in one acte you woorke

two good effectes, which are to make your selues ciuill, and enritch the townes.

Vincent.

But how say you to our pleasures and pleasant exercises of the countrey? for that was the next I promised to praise. I trust you will allow of them, and commend your owne coldly, for I thinke they be colde enough in deede.

Vallentine.

Well syr, I perceaue you haue a colde conceit of of our Courtly pleasures, but what of that: tel vs yours I pray you.

Vincent.

Wee haue in troth so great store of them, as there is no time of the yeare, no houre of the day, nor no weather, but wee haue a pastime to entertaine vs with.

Vallentine.

As how? for Gods sake, say on.

Vincent.

In the spring time (and cheefely in Lent) wee fish the Carpe, the Pike, the Breame, the Roche, and the Yeele, as good meates in the eatinge, as good sportes in the ketching. In sommer we dare the Larke with Hobbies, and ketch them with day Nettes. In harueſt when corne is downe, our Sparhaukes bee ready to kill the Partridge, the Quayle, and Rayle. In winter wee hauke the Heron, the Feasant, the Ducke, the Teale: And in breefe, all sortes of volary. The like pleasures wee can shew you vpon the ground, (for you must conceaue that all these fowles doo fly,) and bee it your will to hunt with your eye or eare, wee are

ready

ready for you as if you please to see with the eye, wee course the Stagge, the Bucke, the Roa, the Doa, the Hare, the Fore, and the Badger: Or if you had rather haue some Musicke to content your eare, out goes our dogges, our hounds (I should haue saide) with them wee make a heauenly noise or cry, that would make a dead man reuiue, and run on foote to heare it.

Vallentine.

But by your leaue, if you wisht your owne good father, whose Heire you are, would rise from death to life, you had rather neuer heare hound, then trouble his rest.

Vincent.

Very well sir, you thinke I would bee lothe to trace my fathers new steppes vpon his olde land, I speake like a hunter, and to tell you plainely, as I neuer desired his death: So were it no reason I should put him to paines, of receauing his arrerage of rents, which I haue spent these half dozen yeares past.

Vallentine.

Much good may it doo you, and let him rest, (God giue him rest:) But tell mee if all these pleasures, wherof you tolde, bee they vsed by day or night, in faire weather, or fowle?

Vincent.

In good sooth (Maister Vallentine) either you are wonderously pleasaunt, and disposed, or els very ignorant in Gentlemens quallities, that will aske me these vain questions: For euery man knoweth that the day time is fittest for all sportes, and likewise the faire weather.

Vallentine.

Ah syr, I pray you pardon mee, for I confesse I am vnskilfull, yet vnlesse I bee much deceaued, I haue hard hounds barke by night, & haue seene fowlers ketch Woodcockes in colde weather.

Vincent.

In deede it may bee, you haue hard sumtimes hounds yorne, (for so you ought to terme it) by night, and I suppose the winter weather and hard, is fittest for ketching of Woodcockes in deede.

Vallentine.

Well, I am glad, you know therby I haue hard, and seene sumwhat worthy a Gentleman: I pray you now tell vs your pastimes, destined for fowle weather, & how many be of them, besides ketching of Woodcockes.

Vincent.

I assure you many, and those diuerse (in which I will include our exercises also: but because you demaund of our fowle wether pastimes, I wil speake of them first.

Vallentine.

You are full of memory & order, I pray you say on.

Vincent

In fowle weather, we send for some honest neighbours, if happely wee bee with our wiues alone at home (as seldome we are) and with them we play at Dice, and Cardes, sorting our selues according to the number of Players, and their skill, some to Ticktacke, some Lurche, some to Irish game, or Dublets: Other sit close to the Cardes, at Post & Paire, at Ruffe, or Colchester Trumpe, at Mack or Maw: yea, there are some euer so fresh gamesters,

sters, as wil bare you cõpany at Nouem Quinque, at Faring, Trey trip, or one & thirty, for I warrant you, we haue right good fellowes in the countrey, sumtimes also (for swift of sports, you know is delectable) we fall to slide thitte, to Penny prick, & in winter nights, we vse certaine Christmas games very propper, & of much agilitie, wee want not also pleasant mad headed knaues, þ bee properly learned, and will reade in diuerse pleasant bookes, and good Authors: As Sir Guy of Warwicke, þ foure Sonnes of Amon, the Ship of Fooles, the Budget of Demaundes, the Hundreth merry Tales, the Booke of Ryddles, and many other excellent writers, both witty and pleasaunt. These pretty and pithy matters, do some times recreate our mindes, cheekely after longe sittinge, and losse of money. In faire weather when we haue straungers, or holly daies (for els in the day time wee attend our thrift) wee exercise our selues in shooting at Buttes, Pricks, Roauers and Rouuers: We cast the Bar or sledge, Leape or Run, if our ages and condition bee fit for such exercise, els (beeing aged) wee chat at home, and talke of Turryn, and Torny, or some other notable war, wherin wee serued our Prince: Or if wee haue cõtinually dwelt at home, & bin Justices of Peace, we accõpt what graue Judges & gentlemen we haue seene sit on our Bench, & with what eloquence we haue (when it was our turne) geuen the charge. Vallentine.

Certainly sir, you haue told mee of many proper pleasures, and honest exercises: But with all let mee aske you what Neighbours these companions bee, of whom you haue tolde mee.

Vincent

Vincent.

They are our honeſt neighbours, Yeomen of the Countrey, and good honeſt fellowes, dwellers there about: as Graziers, Butchers, Farmers, Drouers, Carpenters, Carriers, Taylors, & ſuch like men, very honeſt and good companions.

Vallentine.

And ſo I thinke, but not for you beeing a Gentleman: For as their reſort vnto your houſe ſhal giue them occaſion to learne ſome point of ciuilitie, and curteſie, ſo your conuerſinge with them will make you taſte of their bluntnes and ruſticitie, which will very euill become a man of your calling.

Vincent.

What would you then haue mee liue alone, and ſolitary? That were worſe then to bee dead.

Vallentine.

Nay, neither, for if you did, for the moſt liue in Court or Cittie among the better ſorte, you ſhould euer finde company there, fit for your eſtate and condition: I meane Noble and Gentlemen, (with whom if you had acquaintance) you would litle delight in this ruſtical conuerſation, and leſſe reioyce at that mirth, which (now not knowinge better) doth (as it ſeemeth) pleaſe you much.

Vincent.

If theſe paſtimes bee not fit for a Gentleman, what would you haue vs to make our ſelues merry with?

Vallentine.

That will I tel you hereafter, when you demaund to know the paſtimes and exerciſes of Court. In the meane time, tell on your owne tale, being now

come to the last commodity of the Countrey which is profit.

Vincent.

I thought it had beene needles for mee to haue saide any thinge therof, because I thinke you see y matter in such experiēce, as it nedeth no dispute.

Vallentine.

What meane you by that? when there is nothing (as I tolde you long since,) perfitly good, nor perfitly euill, onely vertue and vice except.

Vincent.

All this while you flye aboue my pitch, I praye you speake plainely, doo you thinke the thrifte of Noble men and Gentlemen, haunting the Court, or inhabitinge the Cities, is comparable to the good husbandry and profit of the Country?

Vallentine.

Yea surely do I, and therfore conclude not in hast.

Vincent.

How can it so bee, when the most part, yea in effect, all Courtiers, and towne dwelling Gentlemen bee beggers (or at the least poore in purse) and wee of the Countrey, bee either all, or the greater number, very wealthy, or ritche enough.

Vallentine.

All this may bee true, and yet neither the Court or Towne is cause of their pouerty, nor the Countrey dwelling, the occasion of your ritches.

Vincent.

Well syr, fith experience will not perswade you, I will set downe some reasons to drawe you to mine opinion. And first call you to memory the continuall & excessiue charge which the Courtier,

or Cittie dweller is at, I mean in feeding him self, seruauntes, and famely: likewise how costly and almost princely hee apparelleth him selfe, his wife, his children, and seruauntes, and all this charge goeth from the purse, for prouision hath hee none: neither doth hee sow any graine, reare any cattel, nor his wife and women seruaunts spin any cloth, & though they so did, none I suppose of you would weare it, such is your pride. On the other side, all the corne wee make our bread of, groweth on our demeane ground, the flesh wee eate, is all (or the most parte) of our owne breeding, our garmentes also, or much therof, made within our house. Our owne Mault and water maketh our drinke: So as in conclusion, I say that sith the necessities of mans life consisteth vpon these; I meane meate, drinke, and cloth. (All which cost vs nothinge, or very litle, and you very much) how can you in reason conceaue, that wee should bee no richer then you, that haunt Courts, and inhabit Cities.

Vallentine.

What you alleage, or the most therof, I thinke is true, but your conclusion false: For albeit your prouisions be great, yet your expences beeing greater, your thrifte is like to ours, who haue small prouision, and like charge.

Vincent.

How can your charge bee litle, when the cost of keepinge one man in Court, or Towne, willbe as much, as to keepe three in the Countrey?

Vallentine.

And that I iudge is also true, but if my one man in the towne, will serue mee as well as your three

men

men in the Countrey serue you, though that one spendeth mee as much as your three, I care not: for my thrift is no whit the lesse, nor yours ỹ more, if of force (as in deede you must) keepe so many. For where there is (as you alleage) great Tillage, rearinge vp of Cattell, Spinninge, and Cardinge, with daily resorte, besides of straungers, (as is commonly to Gentlemen in the Countrey,) there must needes bee also many seruauntes, which concourse of people, and busines breedeth occasion of continuall expence of victuall: So as in effect you keepe many that doo bring you home profite, and they with others, doo straight waies eate it vp, what are you then the better? but by thus much the worse then we, that you are combred with the vnlooked for resorte of freends and foes, and the daily feeding of many seruauntes.

Vincent.

Wee thinke your speech hath good sence, yet because it is long, I do not perfitly conceaue it, as I desire, I pray you tell mee your reason breefely.

Vallentine.

Then must you imagine that you haue ten loads of Haye in your Stable, and ten horses which of force you must keepe. In my Stable I haue but one load, and one horse, now will I aske you whither your proportion bee larger for your cattell, or mine for mee.

Vincent.

They seeme all one, sauinge that hee that hath the greatest prouisiõ, hath also the greater trouble.

Vallentine.

Then I am glad you vnderstande: For such is

the difference, betwixt the Countrey and towne dweller, the one hath much prouision, and many to spend it, the other hath litle, and few to consume it. So as I gesse, all comes to one reckoninge, saue that the greatest hauer, hath the lesse quiet.

Vincent.

But yet by your leaue (Maister Vallentine) you say beseen Courtiers, albeit you want prouision, and haue litle, yet will you also spend much. And how then?

Vallentine.

Mary then I say, so many of vs (as indeede such is the honour of the most) bee plaine bancke-routes, and beggers, as you call vs, but in whom is the fault? not in the Court nor yet in the towne. But in our owne selues, and our owne folly: But such as liue in Corte or in towne orderly, & spende within their proportion, may bee equall with you in thrifte, and in quietnes far before you.

Vincent.

Yet haue you not fully answered mee, for sith besides my yearly rentes, I haue three or foure hundreth Acres of demeane landes, whereupon my prouision groweth, I accompt my house costeth me nothing, when you that haue none, but liue on the penny, must needes spend without measure.

Vallentine.

Why sir if you list, let out your demeanes, were it worth no rente?

Vincent.

Yes that it were, for there is no Acre of it, but would yeeld mee yearely a crowne.

Vallentine.

Then may you accompt, your prouision coſt you yearly foure hundreth crownes.

Vincent.

By my fay, you ſay troth, for if I did not eate it, I perceaue I ſhould haue it. But then how ſhould my houſe bee kept, and my neighbours loue mee?

Vallentine.

A great deale better now for you, & other Gentlemen diſpoſing your ſelues (as ful yll it becommeth you) to bee Ploughmen, you haue learned what euery ſoyle is worth, and to atter that rate, ſet out your land, whereby the poore Huſbandman or Farmer payeth ſo deare for your comming, and neighbourhood, as hee had rather you lined further off like a Gentleman, though for very flattery or feare when hee dineth at your Boarde, hee ſaith, hee is ſory your worſhip ſhould dwell away, when God wotteth, the poore man meaneth nothinge leſſe: For I haue learned that thoſe Tennauntes haue beſt peny worthes of their Farmes, whoſe Landlordes do leaſt know the Lande, or dwell furtheſt from it. Wherfore you deceaue your ſelfe, to thinke that your continuall dwelling in the Country, doth eaſe the poore Ploughman, ſo long as you play the Ploughman your ſelfe, or let your lande at great rente: For ſhall you not finde a number of poore Huſbandmen that almoſt ſtarue for want of lande to manure? wherof I iudge nothinge a greater cauſe, then that Gentlemen bee become Ploughmen, and are not contente to let the poore hire it, and liue of the rente, as their calling is, which couetous, and dowmiſhe honour they cloake vnder

pretence of hospitallitie.

Vincent.

But if I should not occupy my lande, how should I know what it were worth? for this I found by experience (calling home into my handes certayne coppy houldes, let out by mine Auncestors) that euery Acre was twise so much worth, as therente I receiued for it.

Vallentine.

Loe, now in ernest you speake like a worshipfull Ploughman, not like a worthy Gentleman, for this experience, wherof you speake, were better vnknowen then vsed. Therfore some Doctors doo thinke it better not to know all thinges, then to know them: meaning (as I iudge) that euery man should not bee to deepe a searcher in an others profession or mistery, least led on with priuate profit he hindereth the common commoditie.

Vincent

By this reason (wherin I confesse is good sence) the Gentlemen of ỹ Country that occupieth much lande with his owne Plough, and feedeth many other, letting also his lande wel and roundly, were aswell spared, as present among his Tennauntes: Notwithstanding hee keepeth good hospitallitie.

Vallentine.

Yea certainly, for they giue the poore men their Tennants, a meales meat twise a weeke worth a groate, and force him to pay a shillinge more then hee was wonte, before his lorde became so skilfull a husband. Yea by your leaue also, if your poore Tennant presentes you with a couple of Capons, or a Pigge, it is many times welcome, all the meat hee eateth at you Table is not so much worth.

Vincent.

Vincent.

I partly conceaue now the substance of al this discourse vpon profit, & finde in deede that comparing the number which wee keepe in the countrey, with those that yourda in the Cittie, the cost of householdinge commeth all to one accompt, and to confesse troth, I suppose there is more certenty in the proportion of your charges then in ours. And (as I graunted before) not halfe the trouble. And sith I am led thus far from mine olde foolish minde and common loue to our countrey custome, to inhabite there, I will tell you of great and excessiue priuie charges, which wee be at in our houses. (I meane in our household stuffe, and cheefely linnen, for if a Gentleman haue in his house twenty beads, (as manye haue) and some a greater number, wee haue them full often occupied with straungers and their seruaunts, who for the most parte bee so careles, or slouenly, as they will make quicke speede to weare out not only our linnen, but also our hangynges, Curtaines, and Canopies of silke: So as within a litle time wee spoyle a great deale of good stuffe, and then forced to buy new. For as you see Gentlemen daily resorte vnto common Innes, so do they daily resort to Gentlemens houses, with man and horse, hauke and dog, till the poore Master of the house hath al his linnen foule, al his prouision eaten, & his household stuffe made vnsauery, & oft times toorne and spoiled. But al this notwithstanding I acknowledge to be true, yet it greeueth mee to dwell from my owne house where my neighbors loue me, & my tenants do feare me, yet would I faine do, as you aduise me were not the fashion, and the custome to the contrary.

Vallentine.

Vallentine.

By reasoning, you reuiue an olde verse, that beeinge a Schoole boy, I oftentimes red: Video meliora, proboq; deteriora sequor. But I praye you let no thinge that is euil, vnfit or vnprofitable entice you to countinue it, because the same hath beene an auncient custome, for I dare warrant you, that Vice is as olde, as any vertue: and yet I hope you are not so simple, as for the age (against all reason) you will allow it for good.

Vincent.

In very deede, you discourse so well, as I must needes confesse my selfe driuen to the wall, with playne reason, yet while it comes to my minde, let mee aske you how your Wiues will bee brought to leaue their Coultrey Gossippes, with whoim they haue had longe loue and familiaritie. Also to dischaege their Bayeries (which is their priuate profits) will touch their stomackes neare, cheekely the thriftier sorte, and good huswiues. For some that loue not huswifery would easely bee perswaded to the Towne, because they may lye longe a bed, and weare gay garments.

Vallentine.

Now haue you mooued a sober doubt, and well I woot not how to answeere thereunto, vnlesse I knew your wiues disposition, for I am very lothe to offend: Notwithstandinge because wee do common heare priuately, and not as they doo in Parliament iudicially. I will tel you my opinion touchinge your wiues, I pray you beare what I say, but tell not them, what I sayde: (or if you doo) say not from whoim you had it.

Vincent.

Vincent.

With all my hart, for I learned longe agoe, (as I remember of olde Ouid the louer) Paruus tacere labor.

Vallentine.

Then doo I tell you flatly, that your wiues bee no lesse, but happely more from the order of ciuilitie, and the life of Gentlewomen then you are your selues, and therfore can I lightly beleeue, they will not bee willingly brought to leaue their Countrey gossips, and gamesters, and more hardly to put away their good inditch Cow: But your wisedome must euer rule their couetous folly: For if you consider how vncomly a thing it is to see, (as I haue some times seene, and you I am sure often.) A Gentlewoman walkinge in the pastures, among her Cowes, and Calues, al to be dabled with dew and dyrte, and other whiles wandering in the hot sommer a longe mile, to finde out her hey makers, or corne reapers: So as beeing come thyther, or at the least before thee bee returned home to her husbands bord, or bed, what with myre in winter, and sweating in sommer, thee is become a morsell more meete for a Mowre, or a Mason: then a Gentlemen, or a ciuill husbande. This I know is their vse: yea, I haue seene some of greater title then a Gentlewoman vse this manner of toyling: And if any other Gentlewoman bee more fine or delicate (as thee ought to bee indeede) thee is misliked among them, and called a cleane fingered girle, as though that were a great ignomy. But now syr, I dare promise that you hauinge yeelded to bee ciuill your selfe, will no more allow of this life in your

liues: But remoue such manners from them, either by reason or ouer rulinge, for ỳ sex is not euer reasonably.

Vincent.

For my parte, I wish my wife were not so payn-full an huswife, and yet is that no euell propertie, but a thinge very profitable. And though good huswiues in deed, must neither shun the Sommer sweat, nor doubt to marche in the Winter myer, yet I warrant you vpon the Hollyday, or when shee list to goe into fine company, shee hath good garments, and can weare them well and Courtly. So can also our Gentlemen of the Countrey, for though wee walke at home plainely apparrelled: yet when wee come to the Assizes, London, or any other place of assembly, wee will put on Courtlike garments, (and though I say it) some of vs weare them with good grace.

Vallentine.

I beleeue you, euen like a Constable in Midsommer watch. But this is no great matter.

Vincent.

Well then wee do not differ much: Let vs therfore come to conclusion, because I longe to heare howmen be trained, and exercised in Courte and Cittie, for (as it seemed by your speeche) their manner of liues, doo much resemble one thother.

Vallentine.

And so they doo in deed, I meane the Gentlemen, and not the Marchants and Mecanicall people, for their trade (as you can conceaue) is turned an other waies: But I praye you say on, for it seemed, you ment to reight in breefe the somme of all this speech, and how well we haue by consent resolued.

Vincent.

Vincent.

That is my intent, so far as wit and memory will serue mee. But first let mee intreat you to tell mee somewhat of Courte and Towne dwellinge: then shall you heare my minde, and conclusion of all together.

Valentine.

Verely (Maister Vincent,) I must confesse I should do wrong you) commend your memory a great deale, and euen my thankes must I also allow you, for your patience, in hearing my poore reason, and discourse, which (as it seemeth) is not in vaine, but hath taken the effecte I desired.

Vincent.

Yea surely, and thereof rest you assured. I pray you now let us fall to the Country, and (as you promised,) say somewhat of the Courte & Cittie habitation. For I am a straunger in those places, though your hap bee to finde mee here at this present in London.

Valentine.

You might thinke mee of euill manner, and lesse curtisie, if I refused to performe your reasonable request, and the rather for the honour you haue done mee, in yeelding to my reasons.

Vincent.

Then without more ceremony I praye you begin, and feele no offence; though I through ignorance doo aske many questions, for mannes nature, (you woot well) is desirous to know, cheefely thinges commendable.

Valentine.

Euen so it is. But touching my talke of the Court, and Towne habitatiõ, although I haue at length

prooued, that in those places ought to be ỹ Gentlemens cheefe abode, yet I thinke it not necessary to make any new comparison: But onely to touch some matters, how men do there liue, and in what ages and estates the Courtinge life doth become: For to take vpon mee to frame a Courtier, were presumption, I leaue that to the Earle Baldazar, whose Booke translated by Sir Thomas Hobby, I thinke you haue, or ought to haue reade. I will not therefore cumber you with the education of a gentleman, for that is already spoken of. For whether the same bee in Armes or learning, it is indifferent, for (as I tolde you) the state hath neede of both; and both do alike beseeme him vnderstande you, then that all Gentlemen inhabiting the Cities, & there from their Cradle brought vp, can not bee so hard to bee entred into a ciuill life, as they were, beeing brought vp in the Countrey till they bee fifteene or eyghteene yeares olde, before which time they are so deepely rooted in rusticitie, as they proue like vnto the haggard haukes, which many times are so wilde and indisciplinable, as will either neuer or with great labour bee reclaimed. The like I say of their liues, through rusticall company in childehoode, doo get them selues as it were an habite in loughty loks, clownish speech, and other vngentlemanly gestures, as it is a good while (yea many times neuer) that those rusticities bee leafte. But I will no more speake of children: onely this I say that young Gentlemen, (whose Parentes inhabit the Cittie, and are desirous to haue their Sonnes well and vertuously brought vp) besides that, they shalbe free from these Countrey conditions, they

may, or then come to this age, bee perfitly learned in the Greeke and Lattin tongues, and other whiles in other volgare languages: also he may haue some good intrance in the sciences Mathematicall knowledges, very fitte for a Martiall man, and not vnfit for the Ciuill Officer: Whereof I infer that at this age, or shortly after hee is to bee iudged, wherunto hee is by nature and desire most inclined.

Vincent.

Wee will then for this time imagine (and for my part to with) that all Noble and Gentlemen, did dwell in Cities, and Townes, and that therby their children should not be infected with the countrey conditions, but were as apte for Courte, and Ciuilitie, as you would haue them: what would you then they should do, beeing come to eyghteene or twenty yeares: as you seeme to desire, beeinge well entred and learned in those studies, that become a Gentleman.

Vallentine.

I would then (findinge the inclination of my sonne to learninge) continue and encourage him therin, and make him (I hope) a man fit for his countrey, or at the least for him selfe.

Vincent.

As how: I pray you proceede: For beeing now my selfe perswaded to dwell in the Cittie; & haue many younge children, I would directe them the best I could.

Vallentine.

I wish that your sonne, hauing passed the scholes, and spent some time in the vniuersitie, finding him disposed to learne the common lawes, you should

in any wise continue him, and (as I sayd before) holde him therto as a study both necessary for the state, and profitable for him selfe. Or if he rather affecteth the lawes Ciuill, or the science Mathematicall, I would aduise you (if such bee your ability) to send him to study in the Vniuersities of forraine Countreyes, where hee may make double profit, I meane, learne the knowledge hee seeketh, and also the language of the place.

Vincent.

But I pray you, giue mee leaue to demaunde to what vse the knowledge of ỹ lawes ciuil do serue, for it is the law of the Realme, only (as I thinke) that bringeth in both honor, and profit.

Vallentine.

I deny not, but after our longe peace and quiet, (which God continue) the common lawes of this Realme, hath both aduaunced, and enritched many, for (such is the nature of men) as they neuer cease one to molest the other, not beeinge by some forraine molestacion offended, they conuert their ambition, and couetous one agaynst the other. Whereupon they call one the other to tryall of law, in those contentions (which are many) the men of lawe, are hired and imployed, to their exceedinge profit and gayne. But touching the ciuill lawes, I say that is a most noble knowledge, beeinge the law almost vniuersall to all Christendome, & therefore such as attaine to the knowledge therof, shall not onely in this lande, & many other, hable them selues to get their owne liueload: But also be men most fit to counsell Princes, and all estates of gouernments both in causes Ciuill and Martiall: For

by

by them all differentes bee diſſided: The learned Ciuilian therfore (beſides his owne perticuler) is a man very fit, & imployable in all counſels of eſtate and Imbaſſages, as hee that is chilfull of the gouernment vniuerſall. And if (as before I ſayd) his learninge begotten in forraine Countreyes, he ſhall alſo bee helped with language and ſome experience.

Vincent.

Surely ſyr, this is more then I euer hard, for I ſuppoſed the onely profite and reputation of this learninge had been in the Arches and Spiritual Courtes, as wee call them. But now I finde that Ciuilians, can ſerue better purpoſes, and in euery chriſtian countrey, make ſhifte to earne their owne liuinges. I pray you what ſhall we diſpoſe of thoſe young men, ỹ loue a Lawnce or a Sword better then either a Booke, or a long gowne?

Vallentine.

I thinke, I tolde you talking of the Countrey, that in my poore opinion there was no Gentilman (vnleſſe hee were witleſſe,) but might bee made fit for ſumwhat. Such therfore, as were perſons diſpoſed of Body, after the age beforeſayde, and not affected to the ſtuddie of theſe lawes, I would notwithſtanding holde them in loue of the Mathematicall Sciences, and preferre them into the ſeruice of Noble men, and Captaynes, eyther at home, or els in forraine Countryes, who haunting the warres, ſhal enſtruct theſe young fellowes, in all orders and Martiall diſcipline, wherin helped with the knowledge of the ſayde Science.

They

They shall in shorte space, become not onely good and obediente Souldiers: But also skilfull commaunders, and perfite Captaines. Others also may with daily practise prooue excellent in the Art of Ridinge, and others in Saylinge or Nauigation: So as the Martiall exercises bee diuerse, all fitte for a Gentleman, & most expedient for the Princes seruice.

Vincent.

But these qualities bee (as I thinke) slow occupations to thriue by: notwithstanding they are full painefull and perilous, many men, yea (euery man at one time or other) haue neede of a Lawier: But a Captaine, a man of Armes, or a Souldiour (cheefly in time of peace) no man needeth. If therfore a young Gentleman, beeinge of eyghteene or twenty yeares old, should during fiue, sixe, or seuen yeares nexte after, wholly endeuour him selfe in these disciplines and Martiall exercises, and doth become in them expert, or happely excellent, returned home into Englande, where all is peace, what vse were there of his vertue, or who would maintayne him?

Vallentine.

I must say those sortes of men seruiceable, bee not so well prouided for as the deserue, & I desire. Notwithstanding, sith the number of Gentlemen, who apply them selues that wayes bee not many: I iudge beeinge men in deede of vertue and value, our Prince, (for that shee is both liberall, and valourous,) would willingly affoorde them maynteynaunce, besides that, there are diuerse Noble men and great Councellors, some very souldiers them selues,

selues, and some louers, as well of armes as learning that would likewise put their handes to helpe so vertuous and industrious a youth.

Vincent.

And so do I suppose also, and doo heare it daily wished, that all sortes of men imployable in the state were prouided for: Notwithstanding, sith the vse of these is but seldome, I see no ordinaunce, or speciall prouision for them. And in deede, a man not needed, seemeth superfluous, and may be forgotten.

Vallentine.

You haue reasoned wisely, but not well, for if your Horse should no longer bee allowed Prouender, then during the time you ride him, I warrant you your iourney could not bee longe. Or if your seruaunt should haue wages, but for howres wherin he laboureth, then should you pay him but for halfe the yeare, for euery night (as reason is) hee resteth

Vincent.

You are (Maister Vallentine,) very nimbly witted, and therfore will I not replye, but in that which reason doth maintaine. And touching our matter, Let vs presuppose that some younge Gentleman hath in the prime of his youth disposed him selfe industriously in studdy, warres, and trauell, where hee caught that knowledge or experiēce, that doth recommende him to the Princes seruice: what is the order of the life there, and wherin shall he exercise him selfe at the first comminge, or after some yeates of abroad there, and at what age may hee without offence, and in reason, retire him selfe.

Vallentine.

You are very discrete and orderly in all your demaunds, I would wish you to aske of more skilfull Courtiers, for though I haue seene the Courtes of sundry forraine Princes, and serued longe our owne Soueraigne, yet dare I not accompt my self so perfite, as to enforme you in euery of these.

Vincent.

I haue saide, and so I must once more say, that you are ouer full of respectes, which humor you found beyond the Mountaynes: I pray you laye by this curiositie, and do (as you partly promised,) tell of the order of a Courtly life, and what exercises becommeth a Courtier in euery age, and begin at fiue and twenty yeares, or there about, for before that time, a young Gentleman may haue both studied in Schooles, seen the warre, and trauelled Countreyes: Which three thinges, or at the least one of thē, in any wise I wish a Gentleman should doo, to make him worthy of a Princes seruice.

Vallentine.

Such a man, beeinge retained to the Prince, his best meane to aduaunceement (as I thinke) is to excell, (if possible hee may) in that he professeth, adding therunto dilligence, and fidelity in seruice. And if hee professeth (specially) armes, I would he aduentured him selfe, in euery honourable warre, till such time as hee hath gayned the true knowledge and reputation of a Souldier. And touchinge the exercises of such a one, duringe his aboad in Court, it shall well become his age and profession, to handle all sorts of armes, both on horseback and foote, leape, daunce, runne, ride, (and if hee so

like)

like) play at all sortes of games, so that hee accompanieth either his betters or equals, and that with such discretiō, as his loss be not at any time so great as to occasion his ruyn: It will also stand wel with his condition to entertaine Ladyes, and serue specially some one, whose vertue and priuate curtesie, doth at his hand best deserue. One other thinge also I wish hee vsed, I meane that at the least, one howre of euery day hee should read, either in some notable History, or excellent discourse: For that will much exercise the minde, & encrease the knowledge.

Vincent.

It is true, that as the strength of body vnused, will quickly decay, so wil also the wit and memory. But I pray you tell mee when these lusty exercises will become a Gentleman, I meane, whither they bee seemely all his life, or but only for some certaine yeares.

Vallentine.

In this question I am sure you aunswere your selfe, that they are seldome seemely, in a man of ripe age, and in olde yeares very rediculous. For if you should see an olde Gentleman, with a white or grisly beard, take vpon him to daunce, or turney for his Mistrisse fauour, I suppose you would not looke on him without laughter, nor shee without disdaine: yea, (such is the force of custome) as euen in those that make profession of daunting, vnlesse their yeares be fit for the vse therof, they doo rather instruct others, then vse it them selues. But armes becommeth a Gentleman in all ages: But yet diuersly, for old men must only in earnest vse it.

But young men both in earnest & sporte, are bound to that exercise.

Vincent.

Yet haue you not tolde mee how longe this lyke wilbe seemely.

Vallentine.

I pray you presse mee no more with these demaunds, for I referred you to a booke y can better enforme you. Yet sith you seeke my opinion, I say (as in a sorte I haue already sayd) that these exercises of bodie, doo only become youth: And therefore that age (which I suppose by the Philosophers rule) endeth at thirty and fiue yeares doth onely grace a Gentleman in them. After that time, beeinge of capasitie, and experience, hee is rather to be imploied in serious seruices, then left at leysure, to entertayne Ladies, or daunce a Galliard.

Vincent.

But if it happeneth hee bee not sted in any action meete for his age and skill: But either through want of occasion, freendes or fortune, let stand still in his first estate, without either aduauncement, or imployment, beeing no longer fit for loue and dalliance: How should hee grace him self in Court?

Vallentine.

Truly (as I take it) beeing come to the declyne of his age, and drawing neare to forty yeares, hee may without offence retire him selfe, and resigne his ordinary attendance, resorting some times to see his Soueraigne, as a cheefe comfort. For if you consider well, that place which requireth the person of a younge man, will misbecome the same body beeinge in yeares: also, while youth and lust lasted

lasted, there was hope of good: which now detained the man becommeth not only vnfit for the place he vsed: But also (not preferred) looseth the reputation, wherin his vertue and expectation did holde him.

Vincent.

You speake like a man of experience and iudgement, as one that knoweth what is beseeming in euery age, and estate. Notwithstandinge I see some vnaduaunced, also vnemployed Courtiers, that dwell in their young places of seruice, euen to their last yeares.

Vallentine.

Euen so in troth it is, and the occasions thereof diuerse. Some there are of those men, very imployable, yet therwith deepely infected with ambition, and therfore will neuer leaue the Courte, clearely forgetting, that Fortune is a woman, which fewe seldome preferreth folke of declyning age. Others hauinge happely committed some error, and therby incurred the princes offence, beeing penitent, and desirous to recouer fauour and reputation, doo notwithstanding they know them selues ouer aged for their profession, still attend a plausible departure: which is not quickly obtayned, for (you wot well) Ira, and Irabundia, bee speedier passions, then are Beneuolentia and Gratia.

Vincent.

The thirde sorte, are the Children of Phao, who for want of wit, will imagine they bee euer young, neuer knowinge what becomes them, but still stay in Courte without countenaunce, not to aspire to any thinge, but to eate and drinke among Lords.

For them was the Florentyne Prouerbe deuised, which saith: Chi s'inuecchia in Corteun paglia more.

Vincent.

Sir, you needed not so far to haue fetched a Prouerbe, to apply to this purpose, for wee haue one of our owne: But I thanke you for yours, you teach mee betwixt times, some beyond sea.

Vallentine.

Then (Maister Vincent,) sith you encounter mee with mockes, I will speake no more of Court, but as I haue oft tolde, wish you to peruse the booke of the Courtier.

Vincent.

Yet one word more of the Court, and then speake whereof you please. You seemed, to say that Learning & Armes, were the true professions of a gentleman, would you then that when hee commeth to age hee should abandon one of them? I meane Armes: or be so discurteous, as no longer to loue Ladyes.

Vallentine.

I meane nothing lesse: But that duringe life, a Gentleman should professe Armes, and at occasions, vse them (as I tolde you before) in age earnestly, in youth, both in earnest & sporte. Also I would haue all Gentlemen, euen to their dying dayes, to honour Ladyes, although to serue them daily in Courte and dalliance, I holde olde men farre vnmeete.

Vincent

I am satisfied, and because you haue so ofte addressed mee to the Earle Baldazar, I will speake no more

more of Courte, but come home to the Cittie, which is or ought to bee our habitation; Doth it please you to commaunde mee anye seruice there?

Vallentine.

No seruice good syr, but desire you will commaund mee, wherin I am able.

Vincent.

I know your abilitie to bee much more then I will imploye: But sithe you so freely offer your selfe, I praye you (but not commaund you) to tell what is your order of life in the Cittie, and which bee your exercises, both of body and minde.

Vallentine.

The manner of the most Gentlemen, and Noble men also, is to house them selues (if possible they may) in the Subburbes of the Cittie, because moste commonly the ayre there beeinge somewhat more at large, the place is healthy, and throughe the distaince from the bodye of the Towne, the noyse not much: and so consequently quiet. Also for commoditie wee finde many lodginges, both spacious and roomethy, with Gardaines, and Orchardes very delectable. So as with good gouernment, wee haue as litle cause to feare infection there, as in the verye Countrey: our water is excellente, and much better then you haue anye, our ground and feeldes most pleasaunte, our fier equall with yours. This much touchinge the site of our Towne dwellinge and the Elements.

Vincent.

Vincent.

Then my desire is to know, how you be furnished of all sortes of prouision: as flesh and fish, beere and bread, wood and coale, hay and oates, with euery other thing needfull, either for your ordinary expences, or for feastinge your freendes at occasions.

Vallentine.

All these thinges wee haue with lesse labour then you of the Countrey, where the same doth grow: For either it is brought to our very Gates, and offered vs, or els in the Market, hard at hand, wee may buy it.

Vincent.

But so dearely, as euery penny worth of prouision in the Countrey, is worth three of yours.

Vallentine.

That may hap so to bee, and yet (as I tolde you before) ... afforde a penny for three Egges in the Cittie, then for nine in the Country.

Vincent.

And how can that bee, is not nine more then three, and will goe further?

Vallentine.

Yes truly, but sithe a penny in Egges will serue the turne, for my fewe I keepe in the Cittie: And your penny though it bringeth you more plenty, yet seeinge you haue so much people, as will deuoure it, commeth not the matter to one reckoninge: saue that the aduauntage is ours, that in rostinge our three Egges is not so great troubles as yours, to rosting of nine.

Vincent.

Vincent.

Certainely (Maister Vallentine,) you are an excellent Arithmetrition among egges: But I pray you tell mee how that our children bee brought vp, and where shall wee haue Schoolemaisters to teache them?

Vallentine.

A great number of better then any Sir Iohn of the Countrey, who most commonly teacheth your children, that him selfe knoweth not, and yet either because you are lothe your Babes should be set far from your sleeues, or that there you may haue them taught best cheape, you will in no wise seeke out a skilfull Tutor in deede. But when you shal inhabite the Cittie, you haue there choice of excellent Maisters, not only for the Grammer, and such boy studies, but also in all sortes of learning.

Vincent.

That is a very good thinge, and an excellent commodity. Now I desire you to informe mee, what repare will bee to our houses, and how wee are to entertaine them, for I am ignorant in all, because I neuer dwelt in the Cittie.

Vallentine.

Of my former speeche, comparing the Country custome with ours, you might haue gathered, that vnoccasioned, or not contryued, no man will resort vnto your Town house, except he be your brother, your sonne, or some dere frend, whom you accompt as your selfe, els none without occasion, which happening, they that seke you are so respective, as neither at the howre of dinner or supper, they will looke you, if their business doth not very much vrge

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them. And if happely you do inuite any, of what condition soeuer hee bee, his seruauntes doo not charge you, no nor trouble you, for they retire, till such time as their Maister haue dined, of what degree or title so euer is sayd Lorde or Maister bee. So as the greatest Lord shal no more pester your Hall, or disorder your prouision, then ỹ least gentleman, or meanest freend, (except it) bee that for one meale, you will to honour the great guest make your fare the better.

Vincent.

That is a great sauing to my purse, and sparing mee from trouble: In Country the custome is contrary, the charge of our Halles is more then our owne Table, and the trouble to serue the seruants exceeding. But when wee haue no company but by these happes, wee shalbe (I suppose) very solitary.

Vallentine.

Euen so much as pleaseth your selfe, for when you list to tarry alone, no man will presse you: if you wilbe accompanied, a small consultation will traine freendes vnto you, and these men of more ciuilitie, wisedome, and worth, then your rude Countrey Gentlemen, or rusticall Neighbours. If you delight in graue men & sober, you shal easely acquaint your selfe with such. If you pleasure in myrth and pleasant companions, they are at hand. If you like of learned men, there are they found. If you will haulke or hunt, there are faukners & hunters enough. If you will ride, there are horsemen. And to bee shorte, you shall neuer lacke company fit for your honour, age, and desire.

Vincent.

Vincent.

I am very glad of those newes, for wee Countrey Gentlemen loue not to eate, nor dwell alone: But yet mee thinke I shall hazard my health: notwithstandinge, if my body bee diseased (as it may bee, whersoeuer I dwell) wee may haue (I suppose) plenty of Phisitions to cure vs. The wante of which men is cause that in the Countrey, many do I think daily perish, whose liues might by their skill bee preserued.

Vallentine.

Yea certainly sir, many in deede for want of good medecines doo no doubt miscarry: And euen in mine owne experience I haue knowē a Gentleman or two, that were driuen to die, for want of a poore Surgion, or a Barbor to let them blood.

Vincent.

The more is the pitty. Now hauing hard what site I shall haue for my towne habitation, and likewise how I may be accompanied, I desire to know with what matters I shall entertaine my minde, and exercise my body.

Vallentine.

I haue tolde you often, and euer will tell you, that the cheefe and principall studies, and delight of a Gentleman, must bee learninge and Armes: And therfore such as haue ciuilly brought vp, do seldom muse on other matters. For though they refuse not for company & conuersation to hauke & hunte, fish and fowle, Bowle or coyte, or any other honest pastime, yet is our most continuall exercise eyther studie or ridinge of great and seruiceable horses, with ỹ one we entertaine our mindes, with the other we exercise our bodies, & ỹ with great delight

Are not these occupations to much more purpose then either hauking or huntinge, or any other pastime which you Countrey Gentlemen do vse?

Vincent.

In respect of the common wealth, I suppose they are to better purpose, and yet are they costly: For the buyinge of many bookes, and hieringe of learned men to instruct you, is a thinge (as I take it) very chargeable. Likewise to maintaine two or three seruiceable horses, with good feedinge and keeping, will prooue exceeding costly.

Vallentine.

You say truely, and yet lay by your haukes, and your dogges with their keepers, and such charges as are incidente to those pastimes, then shall you finde that the practise of learninge and armes, is not more costly then these, and to dyeing and cardinge not comperable. You shall also consider, that [illegible] Gentlemen that bee not bound to attendaunce to follow Court, but at their owne willes, may make prouision in the Cittie, and kepe their horses there, it is a matter of supportable expence. And many Gentlemen there are, that spend yearly so much hay and corne, vpon huntinge and haukinge Jades, as would maintayne halfe a dozen able horses to serue their Prince.

Vincent.

But would you haue euery Gentleman to kepe seruiceable horses, euen those y liue to themselues, and receaue no pay of the Prince, either in war or Court?

Vallentine.

Yea surely syr, euery Gentleman of abillity ought

to

to doo it, for vnlesse hee be at all times well armed and horsed, I holde him vnworthy the name of a Gentleman, yea, though hee weareth the longe Roabe.

Vincent.

Then will you put our Gentlemen to double charges, I meane to keepe their haukinge nags, and their horses of seruice also.

Vallentine.

I will not wish them to that. For I desire onely to see them furnished like Gentlemen, not like Faulkners: if there were fewer haukes, and more horses, I suppose it were better for the state, and more worship for ỹ Gentlemen. Also (if you marke it well) it is (besides the necessity,) a better and more commendable sight, to see a Gentleman ride with three fayre horses, then fifteene of those vncumly Cuttalles.

Vincent.

In that I must also concurre with you in opinion.

Vallentine.

Yea, I am sure you will, and so wil euery other man in whō there is either iudgement or courage. And if you were in some Countries, where gentlemen doo in deede liue a ciuill life: You should daily see them so wel mounted, as would greatly delight you. And so great is there the desire of knowledge in Chiualry, and the vse of armes, as in sundry Cities they haue by consente, erected a pay and pention, for men expert to teach them these knowledges: So as what with their instructions, and their owne exercise, many become cunninge, and some very excellent. The like prouisions they haue

deuised, for the knowledge of Philosophy, and the Mathematicall Sciences, entertaining men excellent in them, to read publikely, who for their paines do receaue good reward, euen by the only bounty and beneuolence of Noble and Gentlemen, studious of honour and vertue.

Vincent.

How commeth this curtage and noble desire of knowledge into those people, more then vnto vs?

Vallentine.

I dare not take vpō mee to iudge, but (as I gesse) the want of knowledge what honour is, must bee the principall occasion of our want of desire to excel both in learninge and Armes: Yea, in my poore minde, because we dwel in remote place, one gentilman far from other, so as the better cannot inform the worse: there is no meane made to instruct the ignorant, but euery one disposeth him selfe almost as a poore Ploughman, making profit and riches the markes of all his indeuor.

Vincent.

Then it seemeth, that the Cittie, the Court, and other places of assembly, (I meane of Nobility) doth occasion men to learne the customes of curtesy, and pointes of honour?

Vallentine.

No doubt therof, for euen experience doth proone, that so it is, for if you happen into the company of two Gentlemen, (though in wit and capacity alike) the one brought vp in the Countrey, the other in Court or Cittie, you shall euen at the first sight perceaue by their speeche, iesture, and behauiour, that their educations are diuerse.

Vincent.

Vincent.

And that may so bee, yet the behauior of both good and gentlemanly enough. For you shall finde few Gentlemen of the Country, but they are sumwhat learned, and many of them brought vp in seruice, so longe as they can therby know what reuerence or countenance to vse towards all sortes of men.

Vallentine.

That is but your opinion, for I will compare their good manners, or rather their euill manners vnto the skill of an vnskilfull Taylor or shoemaker: who dwelling among the countrey people, doth exercise his occupation: and not beeinge there any better workeman, is holden an excellent artizan: when in deede hee is a plaine bungler, and a very ignorant dolte. Euen so to those that neuer saw any ciuile men: they that weare any good garmentes, are without other consideration, accompted braue Gentlemen, and folke of good nurture.

Vincent.

Then I perceaue that euery man that can make a coate is not a Taylor, nor euery one that hath the name of a Gentleman, and goeth well apparrelled, ought bee so reputed: vnlesse the one bee skilfull in his craftе, and the other seemely in his garmentes.

Vallentine.

You take my meaning aright, and yet you must not thinke that these externall thinges, (I meane apparrell and iesture) bee the cheefest ornamentes for a Gentleman. For the inwarde vertues and perfections be in troth of most waight, and cheefly required.

Vincent.

Vincent.

So haue I hard you already say, but few can attaine to perfection, and not many draw neare vnto it. Yet I thinke you shal finde in the Countrey the most part of those that beare the name of Gentlemen, that they are of capacitie sufficient & able to talke of their shire wherin they dwel, as of the fertilytie or barenes therof: of hauking or huntinge, fishinge or fowlinge, and finally of all such matter as conserne either pleasure or profit, wherfore I finde no want in their wittes to bee supplied, vnles they happely lacke the Arte of Adulation, or the skil of ceremonious speech, which you trauellers haue brought from beyond the Seas.

Vallentine.

Sir you may bee bolde to tell mee of all faultes: For I can willingly confesse, that from far, many haue fetched full euill conditions. But therwith I pray you consider, that who so buyeth corne, must needes put some chaffe into his sackes: And so were yee better do then bring home no corne at all. Euen so hee that seeketh to know the best, must of force, happen vpon some euill: both which a wise man knoweth how to vse, ỹ one to bee stored, the other to bee cast away and detested.

Vincent.

Yet haue you not tolde mee your opinion, touching our Countrey wittes and experience, neither haue you sayde ought, how you allowe of those thinges wherin wee are able to speake.

Vallentine.

I say they are not euil, neither is it vngentlemanlike to haue skill in matters of profit or pleasure.

And

And yet if your capacities comprehend no greater matter, you may proue fat Frankins, or faukners for a prince, or perhaps hunts for my Lord Maior: but neuer become worthy the name of Gentlemen nor the estimation that therto belongeth.

Vincent.

In deede syr, I remember you tolde mee that armes and learning were the only occupations of a Gentleman, and these are not in troth any of thē. Notwithstandinge you must vnderstand that the most of vs haue gone to schoole, and many haue seen some parte of the warres.

Vallentine.

Euery boy that hath been beaten for not learning his lesson, is not to be accompted learned, but hee that in deede hath learning, nor hee that a fewe dayes hath marched in armour ought be taken for a souldier: no more then those that for one nightes sleepe in Parnassus Hill, should bee reputed perfite Poets.

Vincent.

Truely it seemeth a thinge reasonable, that so noble knowledges are not gotten without long labour and perseuerance. But I pray you tell mee what imperfection you finde in the conuersation of our Countrey Gentlemen: whom (to tel you truly) I wish either more lettered, or better learned in the Martiall discipline.

Vallentine.

Sith you so require mee, I will vse that (which you say is no property of a courtier) plainesse. And therfore I tell you, ỳ besides those qualities you alleaged, I finde nothing els in ỳ Countey gentle-

men: & the same not accompanied with some taste of lerning or armes, I accounpt as nothing worth. Touching their conuersation, you shall besides the rusticitie of their houses and garments, finde them full of lofty lookes, barbarous behauiour, and vndecent doinges. As for ensample, some one will laugh when hee speaketh, an other will cough before hee telles his tale: And some will gape or yawne when hee giueth the hearinge. So as in deede (vnlesse they be of better education) few doo know what countenance to make among y^e equals, and among their betters vtterly to seeke. Also if they hap to dine at any table, either they are sullenly silente, or els they fall into speeche of their owne Auncestors, their owne landes, their owne wiues, or children, other subiect of talke yee shall seldome finde among these sortes of countrey men.

Vincent.

In good sayth sir, when I remember al mine acquaintance, I counsell that some of them (cheefely in company) are to seke which way to loke: & much more how to entertaine. And this I speake not only of vs that dwell in the countrey, but by your leaue of many Courtiers. Vallentine.

I am not so simple, (though simplest of many) but that I finde in Courte diuerse as vnworthy the name of Courtiers, as of you that deserue not the reputation of Gentlemen. But yet necessitie and occasion do draw vs to be of better manner, & cheefly in our doinges to vse more respect. And would you practise mine opinion, to liue sumtimes in country, & sumtimes in cittie, yee could not choose but know the thrift of the one, wherof ye boast, and also the ciuilitie of the other. Vincent.

All men are not apt for one thing, & mens delightes be diuerse: for as some affect the scholes & lerning, so others take pleasure in husbandry and tillage. Some haue minde to the warres, & loue to wander in forraine Countryes: others are willinge to follow princes affaires, & some are best content to tarry at home & liue to thē selues. How thē should al men be expert in learning & armes. Vallentine.

I am glad you come so neare mee, for now will I put ye in minde, ꝑ long since I tolde you, which is, that euery gentleman vnlesse hee were witles will proue fit for some action, either Martiall or Ciuill, if he doth not, the fault in his owne, ꝑ doth not offer himselfe to industry, or his foolish freends ꝑ would not comfort him to it. And so in conclusiō, I impute ꝑ fault to Nature, but rather to Nurture.

Vincent.

I had thought that nature had made euery man so affected as that he had been only meet, for that his freendes put him vnto, or that his auncestors before him vsed and delighted.

Vallentine.

Touching that, I will tell you how Licurgus the Law maker of Lacedemon handled the matter, to teache the people there, what education besides nature could do in men. Hee caused two dogges of one lytter to be brought vp, the one he committed to a man that delighted in huntinge, and so vsed that whelpe: the other was fostered by a poore villain, willing in no wise that dogge to doo other then eate and feede fat. These two whelpes being growē to ripe age, Licurgus cōmaunded they should be brought forth in ꝑ presence of many people, and with thē a Hare & a potful of pouldge, which being

shewed to the dogges, and they both let loose, the one ran after the Hare, the other made hast to the porish pot. Wherby the Lacedemonians perceaued, that education & not nature, made in all creatures the difference of delightes, though some men are more and some lesse to goodnes enclined, yet euery man apt for some what, though many haue made them selues fit for nothing.

Vincent.

To say troth, I know many good wits, that first for not beeinge by freends admitted to learne, and after through an habit of sloth, do become both vnlearned and very lowtes. Others both witty and curragious, yet bred to home, and not hearing how vertuously some their equalles haue beene, are in time rather beastly then braue, rather effeminate then curragious.

Vallentine.

Now you see the minde doth much, and the endeuor therof, maketh men worthy or vnworthy the name of Gentlemen, of defaultes many accuse nature, wherof them selues are most guilty.

Vincent.

Concerning then (of that you haue spoken) how the ende of the Courtier is honour, & his exercises, Armes and learning. And that the country gentlemen aspireth to ritches, exercised cheefly in grasing and Tillage. It must needes bee, that their manners and customes are also diuerse. But as they bee in birth both equall, so ought they to haue lyke delights & customes, wherfore to vnite them it behoueth that the one sorte do conforme them selues to the other.

Vallentine.

Vallentine.

Then it is meete, that the worse do yeelde to the better, & the vnexpert, to those of best knowledge.

Vincent.

So were it both wisedome and reason.

Vallentine.

And which of those men (as you thinke) liueth most vertuously, and are fittest for the state.

Vincent.

Surely syr, since I considered, that we must not liue onely for our selues, and our perticuler profite, I am fully perswaded, that a gentleman vnskilfull in Armes and vtterly vnlearned, is seldome found fit for any publique function, or employment. And no man denieth but that man, who is able to gouerne, is a person more worthy and necessary then hee that is gouerned. For Aristotle a Father in Philosophy sayth: Regens est dimus recto.

Vallentine.

I am very glad to heare you so say, for that was all I laboured you to beleeue: yet before we put full ende to our speech, let mee intreate you to tell that a good while sithee, your self offered, which is to recite in breefe, the sum of all our speech, whereby yee shal shew the excellency of your owne memory and also make these Gentlemen our hearers the better to carry away what hath beene sayd.

Vincent.

Understand you then, that through your good reasons (for which I hartely thanke you) I am brought to know that the education of a Gentleman ought bee onely in Learning and Armes, and that no Gentleman, no nor no Noble man should

withdraw or holde backe his Sonne from the attayning of these knowledges, which are the very true and only qualities or vertues of a gentleman as things not only beseeming such a person, but also for the seruice of a Prince or State very necessary.

Secondly, you haue perswaded that in Court or Towne, the life of a Gentleman may bee no lesse godly and charitable, then in the Countrey: In which discourse you set downe what sortes of seruauntes were superfluous, and which necessary, both for priuate vse, and the publike state: Wherin I also noted, that such younge men as were not borne to lande or liuing, should either apply themselues to perfection in learninge or Marchandize, either else to husbandry, or some Mecanicall misterie or occupacion: And not to be seruinguen, without other knowledge, least through their Maisters want of will to kepe them, or their lacke of skill to earne their owne liueloades, they may be driuen to vnlawfull life or beggery.

Thirdly, in consideration of your reasons I gather, that true honor consisteth not in the admiration of common people, but in the vertue of him that therwith is indued. And that the reputation which a few wise men do giue vnto a Gentleman, is of more worth then that of the multitude, wherupon is inferred, that the respect which is borne to any man by them of the Court and Cittie, (beeing the best and wisest sort) is more estimable then that which is borne by the common people.

Fourthly, you seeme to allow more of many our Countrey sportes & exercises, then of our company

in

in vsinge them.

Fiftly, that for health and holesome habitation the Cities, and some cheefe townes in England, are either better or not inferiour to the sites of the Noble and Gentlemens houses.

Sixtly, I see that the Towne dwellinge doth much surpasse for quietnesse, & that the most parte of Gentlemens countrey houses be frequented as honourable hostries.

And last, that the Court or Cittie habitatiō not abused, is no lesse profitable then ꝑ of the country, & more free from trouble. Thus much of the country.

Touching the Court and Cittie, you tolde that a Gentleman ought in the prime of his youth, endevour him selfe to become sufficient for the seruice of his Prince. Which sufficiency is attained vnto through study, trauaile, and Martiall endeuour. Informinge breefely, at what age hee ought rome to Court, what his exercises should bee there, and in what time and fortune it shal become him to retier him selfe from thence: For (as it seemeth,) an olde Courtier vnpreferred and vnimployed, looseth his reputacion, and may be compared to a Non profitiens in Schoole. Concerning the rest, you referre mee to the Booke of the Courtier.

Of the Cittie, you haue sayd sumwhat perticulerly of ꝑ manner and syte of Gentlemens houses there and likewise, how they may with commodity and reasonable cost bee furnished of al sorte of victuals and other needfull prouision. Also that there be more skilfull Tutors to instruct your children, then wee possible can haue in the Country.

You doo also discourse well of the manner of

housholding

houſeholdinge and the reſorte of freendes in the towne, which ſeemeth not to be comberſome.

Laſtly, it appeareth your exerciſes bee cheefely in Letters and Armes, which bee both commendable and very neceſſary.

Thus much (as I thinke) is the ſomme or principall partes of your ſpeeche, which I confeſſe to bee very reaſonable and good, and therfore conſent that a Gentleman ſo brought vp, is more ciuil then any Country man can bee: Likewiſe meeteſt for gouernment, and for his priuate vertue moſte to bee regarded.

Vallentine.

Surely ſyr, you haue framed a proper Epilogue of our ſpeech. And ſithe I ſee that you both conceaue aright what hath beene perſwaded, and are alſo brought to beleeue what is true, I will preſſe you no further, but bidding you moſt hartely welcome to our owne habitation, as a place fitteſt for a Gentleman. I take my leaue.

FINIS.